

Academic Standards Change Form

Ouachita Baptist University

Date Submitted December 6, 2013

Academic Year Change Goes Into Effect 2014-2015

Confirm (X) approval of this proposal. Vice President for Academic Affairs

State the proposed change.

Cease offering the Ouachita Foreign Language Exemption Exam.

State the rationale of the proposed change.

The Ouachita Foreign Language Exemption Exam was created when the foreign language graduation requirement was added at Ouachita in the late 1980s. For most of its history, it was viewed as a way to allow native foreign language speakers and others who were fluent to test out of the graduation requirement. The policy now states that the requirement is waived for non-native English speakers.

For many years some students preferred the Ouachita exemption exam instead of the CLEP because they either viewed the exemption exam as easier or the CLEP was inconvenient. The exemption exams today are roughly equivalent, albeit shorter, than the CLEP. The CLEP is now electronic, with easily arranged testing dates at HSU and immediate scoring.

There is no cost for the exemption exam, but it carries no credit. The CLEP has a cost, but a passing score is a very inexpensive way to obtain 6-12 hours.

Relatively few students are signing up for the exemption exams. Given the availability of the CLEP and the possibility of earning credit, the School of Humanities wishes to discontinue administering the exemption exams. Contact information for the HSU testing center could be distributed to students early in their college careers to encourage early testing if students want CLEP credit.

Indicate how the proposed change may impact a student's degree plan.

The exemption has normally been offered at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The School of Humanities proposes offering the exemption exam in January 2014 and advising all students and advisors that this will be the last time it will be administered. Current graduating seniors should already have passed the exemption exam, completed the foreign language course work, or be currently enrolled in the two-semester sequence. Students who plan to graduate in December 2014 or later and whose degree plans indicate they will take the exemption exam will have the chance to do so in January. After that, they must take the CLEP exam. With notification in January, there should be plenty of time for these students to either earn CLEP credit or, if needed, make arrangements to take the courses.

Indicate how the proposed change should appear in the general catalog.

Under "Details of General Degree Requirements" on page 34 of current catalog, delete the sentence referring to the Foreign Language Exemption Exam:

5. Foreign Language: All students must earn the equivalent of two semesters of credit in the same foreign language taken in sequence from a lower to higher level of competency. Students may not earn credit for a lower-level course in a language for which they have already earned credit at a more advanced level. ~~Exemption from the foreign language requirement will be given to students who make an acceptable score on a Modern Foreign Languages Department-administered competency examination.~~ The foreign language requirement is waived for non-native English speakers.

Indicate (X) and briefly explain method(s) of evaluating effectiveness of proposed change.

Quantitative Assessment		Qualitative Assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exit Exams	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advisory Board Recommendations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass Rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outside Reviews
<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Scores	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surveys
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Deans will monitor the impact of discontinuing the exemption exam and report any problems to the Registrar and Dean of the School of Humanities.

Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee Recommendation

<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification and/or Revision Needed
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Comments