

Russian and Eurasian Studies Minor Planning Document

Implementation Date

We program to begin this program in spring of 2021, as many of the courses that count towards the minor have already been offered in the current school year.

Program Justification

The current Global Studies minor is housed in the Politics Department and offered in the form of different regional concentrations. However, participation in the Global Studies minor has not met expectations. In consultation with participating departments, the Edwards College has consequently sought to restructure these programs into several independent minors with the aim of increasing enrollment and the improving interdisciplinary collaboration, which is the hallmark of area studies. The Russian and Eurasian Studies Minor has been developed as part of this reorganization effort. Comprised of a working group of faculty from the Departments of Politics, Language and Intercultural Studies, English, History, Art, and Business, the proposal we have created embraces cross-disciplinary collaboration, requiring students to both engage in coursework from multiple disciplines and to complete language coursework in RUSS 115 or equivalent work in another language from the geographic region. The minor will prepare students to better understand the global, interconnected world in which we live. It will also enhance their job market preparation for careers in the US government, international business, media, and the non-governmental organizations.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity

As the minor has been developed using extant courses and current CCU faculty, no additional faculty resources are required. However, with support from the Dean of the Edwards College the advisory committee will recruit students and plan extracurricular activities and cultural events to both promote the minor and to foster participation from members of the Horry County Russian community, once conditions are more permissive for such gatherings. Given current enrollment in language courses, we believe an intake of 10-20 students per year to the minor is feasible at this time.

Relationship to Existing Programs

Program requirements for the minor are directly tied to existing teaching activities in Edwards College. We believe the minor will draw students from a variety of majors who wish to both meet the college's cognate requirement and to complement their primary academic focus by taking a few additional courses to acquire a minor in an important region.

Total New Costs

There are no new costs to implement this minor. Courses in the program are already being taught, or will be taught, by existing faculty in existing facilities.