



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

FRENCH & SPANISH PROGRAMS

PERIODIC PROGRAM REVIEW

2018 – 2019

I. Executive Summary

The Department of Modern Languages and Culture's French and Spanish programs offer some of the few but vital opportunities in The College at Brockport's undergraduate curriculum to acquire intercultural competence and non-English language proficiency in a globalized world. Students majoring in French or Spanish are well prepared to enter the job market and graduate or professional degree programs as a result of their training in oral and written communication and critical thinking. They are also prepared to negotiate across cultural boundaries and differences to effectively engage in their communities and solve problems. Sharp drops nationwide in foreign language enrollment that began in 2009 and that have continued to persist (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/03/07/study-finds-sharp-decline-foreign-language-enrollments>) have not spared MLC programs and the department's greatest challenge today is to recruit students and to cultivate support for language training on campus. On-going assessment of student learning within the French and Spanish programs has enabled faculty to develop consistent approaches and standards that contribute to student success and we have identified areas where improvements can be made to achieve higher levels of student growth and transformation, two key dimensions of The College at Brockport's mission. This self-study documents efforts MLC faculty are making to expand our reach and to evolve the French and Spanish programs and keep them relevant to contemporary trends in higher education; these highly interdisciplinary programs are well poised to engage students in the types of learning they need to navigate both the complexity and the uncertainty of today's world and MLC faculty plan to continue to focus on high impact practices that will provide students with the tools they need to face the future.