

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES

### Overview and rationale

The Graduate Certificate in Second Language Studies (SLS) extends a valuable professional credential to graduate students in world languages. The courses and co-curricular programming offered through this certificate engage graduate students in critical reflection about current research in second language acquisition and foreign language teaching, ultimately enhancing their ability to develop as teachers and succeed in a competitive job market.

Many job announcements in modern language programs ask for expertise in second language acquisition and pedagogy, curriculum design and innovation, instructional technologies, coordination of language programs, program assessment, and supervision of graduate TAs. Prior to the Graduate Certificate in SLS, graduate students in world languages had no formalized way to prepare themselves for these market demands. The Certificate Program addresses these demands, adding a much-needed dimension to graduate students' research in literary and cultural studies.

The Graduate Certificate in Second Language Studies supports Vanderbilt's Strategic Plan by making it possible for graduate students to take advantage of related courses in other programs and to forge trans-institutional connections. Furthermore, this program will support the Educational Technology pillar of the strategic plan by offering graduate students opportunities to develop a deeper knowledge of teaching practice through various programs offered through the Vanderbilt University Center for Second Language Studies and the Center for Teaching.

### Program description

The Graduate Certificate in SLS is a joint venture of the three Ph.D. granting language departments: German, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The department chairs, Lutz Koepnick (German), Laurel Schneider (French), and Benigno Trigo (Spanish and Portuguese), have reviewed and approved the proposed certificate program.

Any student enrolled in a graduate program at Vanderbilt is eligible to apply for the Certificate in Second Language Studies. Acceptance into the program requires the approval of the student's primary adviser and the Directors of the Program in SLS, Dr. Elyse Petit and Dr. Silke Schade. Designated graduate courses successfully completed at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the program may count toward the certificate requirements with the approval of the director of the program.

The program in Second Language Studies currently exists in the Graduate Catalogue with the following course list:

SLS 6030. Foreign Language Learning and Teaching. (Also listed as Spanish 6030, Portuguese 6030, French 6030, German 5310.) [3]

SLS 7040. Second Language Acquisition: Theories and Research. (Also listed as French 7040 and German 5311.) [3]

SLS 8090. Special Topics in Second Language Studies. [3]

Students wishing to enroll must complete an "Intent to Enroll" form which must be signed by the student, the director of the SLS Certificate Program, and the Director of Graduate Studies for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form must be submitted to the Graduate School, to the University Registrar's Office (URO), and to the SLS program director.

A Graduate Certificate in Second Language Studies will be awarded with either the M.A. or Ph.D. degree upon fulfillment of the following requirements:

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- 1. Course work:** Completion of at least 9 credit hours of course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

### Required courses:

SLS 6030 (Foreign Language Learning and Teaching) **AND**

SLS 7040 (Second Language Acquisition: Current Theories and Research) **OR**

SLS 8090 (Special Topics in Second Language Studies)

### A minimum of 3 credit hours from the following list of courses:

EDUC 6020 (Culturally Responsive Pedagogy)

EDUC 6310 (Classroom Ecology)

EDUC 6460 (Language, Education, and Diversity)

EDUC 6530 (Educational Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition)

EDUC 6570 (Teaching Second Language Literacy)

PSY-GS 8360 (Human Cognition)

PSY-GS 8480 (Educational Neuroscience)

SPAN 6020 (Ibero-Romance Philology)

NB: Students are invited to seek approval from the Directors of the SLS Certificate Program for other relevant courses offered at Vanderbilt.

## **2. Professional Development**

Completion of at least two professional development workshop series offered through the Center for Second Language Studies. One workshop series consisting of three workshops is offered each semester. Students must complete all three workshops in the series. Sample professional development workshop series are as follows:

- The teaching portfolio: statement of teaching, teaching video, web presence
- Language program direction: curriculum design, assessment, TA supervision
- Digital technologies and online courses
- Teaching language for special purposes: medicine, business, law
- Creating and leading Study Abroad
- Service Learning and Community Engagement

## **3. Practical Experience**

Completion of at least one of the following:

- Work as a **teaching apprentice** in a class designed for undergraduate minors and/or majors. The work should include consulting with the professor on syllabus design, attending classes, teaching 1 or 2 units, observation, and a written reflection.
- The **Certificate in College Teaching (CiCT)** offered by the Center for Teaching. This program is non-credit bearing and involves general orientation to college teaching, instructor authority, and diversity.
- The **Certificate in College Humanities Teaching and Learning (CHTL)** offered by the Center for Teaching. This program is non-credit bearing and involves developing an understanding of larger issues related to teaching in different institutional contexts.
- Present **two Second Language Studies-related research projects** at conferences.

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- v) Contribute to the Center for Second Language Studies' **Language Panda** (a crowd-sourced database for the teaching of second language studies with digital resources) and mentor one Language Panda contribution.

### 4. Final presentation

Upon completion of the requirements for the Certificate Program in SLS, each student will give a 30- to 40-minute public presentation in the Center for Second Language Studies reviewing an area of interest or specialization in second language development and/or foreign language pedagogy. This presentation will serve as a formal exercise in describing expertise in second language studies in preparation for a job interview.

### 5. GPA

The conferral of the certificate requires a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and successful completion of all the aforementioned requirements.

## Budget

NONE: The Graduate Certificate in SLS does not require special funding. All elements of the program (i.e. workshops, courses, faculty) exist currently. We work collaboratively with the Director of the Center for Second Language Studies (Nathalie D. Porter) to invite guest speakers who will benefit both CSLS and the Certificate Program.

## Program administration

### Directors of the Second Language Studies Graduate Certificate Program:

\*Elyse Petit, Senior Lecturer of French and French Language Program Director

\*Silke Schade, Senior Lecturer of German and German Language Program Director

### Affiliated / advisory faculty:

\*Daniela D'Eugenio, Senior Lecturer in Italian

\*Stacey Johnson, Assistant Director, the Center for Teaching; Senior Lecturer in Spanish

Carolina Palacios, Senior Lecturer in Spanish

Rebecca Peterson, Lecturer in French; Lecturer in Teaching & Learning

Nathalie D. Porter, Director, Center for Second Language Studies; Principal Senior Lecturer in French

\* Indicates that the faculty member has been granted limited graduate faculty status to teach courses in SLS (6030, 7040, 8090).

## Assessment Procedures

A dedicated *Brightspace* site for the SLS Certificate Program serves to store and disseminate materials. Each student enrolled in the program has a folder in the *Brightspace* site to upload action plans, reflections, and presentations for review by the faculty. The affiliated faculty will perform ongoing reviews of all students' work and serve in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Graduate Certificate in SLS regarding each student's progress. Upon completion of the required work for the certificate, the Directors will assign a Pass or Fail grade.

### 1. Course work:

- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

**2. Professional development:**

- Students must attend all three sessions of the professional workshops they choose.
- Students must develop an action plan demonstrating ability to put workshop theme into practice. The workshop coordinators will determine the kind of action plan most applicable (lesson plan, implementation strategy, video, etc.). Students must upload the action plan to *Brightspace* for review no more than 4 weeks after participating in the workshop.

**3. Additional teaching experience:**

- Students who choose to complete the CiCT or the CHTL through the Center for Teaching must scan and upload the certificate to the *Brightspace* site. OR
- Students must obtain permission from the Director of the SLS certificate program to complete a teaching practicum. The student must teach and be observed by an SLS-affiliated faculty member and write a 3-5 page reflection paper describing the teaching experience, signed by the supervising instructor, upon completion of the practicum. Students must upload their reflection papers to the *Brightspace* site no more than 4 weeks after the completion of the practicum. OR
- Students must submit a video of their conference presentations OR
- Students must upload their contributions to Language Panda.

**4. Final presentation:**

- After completing the course work, the professional development workshops and the additional teaching experience, students must give a public 30-40 minute final presentation in the Center for Second Language Studies demonstrating they can engage thoughtfully and reflectively about second/foreign language learning and teaching. The Director of the SLS certificate program and at least three SLS faculty members will attend the presentation and assess students' expertise in foundational concepts in second language acquisition and their ability to apply concepts in classroom teaching.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree program: \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE WORK**

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	DEPARTMENT	INSTRUCTOR	SEMESTER	GRADE
SLS	6030				
SLS	7040				
SLS	8040				

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	SEMESTER

**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (Description / name of supervising instructor)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL PRESENTATION**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Director of Graduate Studies in candidate's discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Directors of SLS Certificate program: Dr. Elyse Petit and Dr. Silke Schade

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_