

June 8, 2007

Dear Government & International Politics Majors:

Many of you have previously switched your Catalog Term to the Fall 2007 requirements, because we advised you that a 201 course would satisfy the foreign language general education requirement under the 2007-08 Catalog.

**Recently, the College has informed all academic units that 201 is NOT sufficient under the 2007-08 Catalog. 202, 209 or 210 will be the only language courses that complete the language requirement in the new Catalog.**

Please see the letter from Dean Jack Censer at the end of this document. Dean Censer explains that academic advisers in all departments of the college relied on information that we had received from the College. Dean Censer's letter explains the options available to you at this point, so that the recent developments with respect to the foreign language requirement do not delay your upcoming graduation.

If you have switched to the Fall 2007 Catalog Term because of the foreign language, **please read the following information carefully.**

Given that many students have been planning their schedules based on the advice and expectation that 201 would be sufficient, there will be a **waiver process** to accommodate students, who would experience serious disadvantages if they had to take 202.

Please note that this waiver process is not available to students who stay under Catalog Terms PRIOR to Fall 2007, or who enroll for the first time at Mason in Fall 2007 or later.

**Students under the 2007-08 Catalog**, who fit any of the following categories, may petition for a waiver:

1. You are planning to complete all degree requirements and graduate at the end of the 2007 fall term, having passed 201.
2. You are planning to complete all degree requirements and graduate at the end of the 2008 spring term, having passed 201 by the conclusion of the 2008 spring term.
3. You passed 201 by the end of the 2006 fall term.
4. There are other serious disadvantages.

If you believe that one of the above situations applies to you, then you should **immediately** apply for a waiver. Please act quickly so that you have certainty about what classes you need.

Your waiver application should include the following:

1. Waiver Form

Please download the form from the following page:

<http://www.gmu.edu/student/academicaffairs/202waiver.htm>

2. Letter explaining the hardship

Please submit your waiver application to:

Undergraduate Academic Affairs  
George Mason University  
Enterprise Hall 316  
4400 University Dr. MSN 5B1  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Phone: 703.993.8725

The Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office will forward appeals to the CHSS Student Policies and Appeals Committee, which will expeditiously review all requests. This committee will be meeting throughout the summer. Thus, it is in your best interest to submit your waiver request as soon as possible. **If your waiver request is not approved, then you will need to complete a 202, 209 or 210 course in a foreign language.**

We are sorry for having passed on what turned out to be incorrect information. Please explore your options with respect to the newly created waiver process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Feit

Undergraduate Director  
Department of Public & International Affairs

## **Letter from Dean Jack Censer about the Foreign Language**

Dear Students,

Some of you were advised that the college-level foreign language requirement in the 2007-2008 catalog could be completed by taking a language through the 201 level. Unfortunately, this is not the case. For the 2007-2008 catalog, the requirement is met by completing a language through the 202 or 210 level.

While I apologize for the recent miscommunication about how the foreign language requirement is completed, I want to emphasize that the requirement itself is not changing. We continue to expect our graduates to have intermediate-level proficiency in a foreign language. Furthermore, I want to emphasize that the miscommunication is not the fault of the undergraduate advisors who were not informed correctly of the situation.

Unfortunately, because the courses in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages are in the process of being redesigned, the means of completing the requirement have become more complicated and are not as clear as they once were. To ensure that everyone understands the available options:

To demonstrate intermediate level proficiency in a foreign language, students can take a foreign language through the 201 and 202 level (0-12 credits) OR through the 210 level (0-9 credits).

If a student has some language experience but is unsure about what to register for, contact the Modern and Classical Languages Department to find out about taking a placement exam ([http://mcl.gmu.edu/resources/placement\\_testing.html](http://mcl.gmu.edu/resources/placement_testing.html)).

If a student has been seriously disadvantaged by the recent miscommunication concerning this requirement, an appeal should be submitted to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office (Enterprise Hall room 316; 703-993-8725). An appeals process has been created by a faculty committee, the Student Policies and Appeals Committee.

I believe the foreign language requirement is an important component of the education that we provide to our students. Not only is it useful to many graduate-level programs, but in a world focused on the global marketplace and global relations, it is a useful qualification for our students to develop while completing an undergraduate degree.

I wish you success in your academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jack R. Censer  
Dean