

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C1596**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Lorna Brau **Email:** lbrau@unm.edu **Phone Number:** 277-4771 **Date:** 01-09-2015

Associated Forms exist? Yes Initiator's Title Associate Professor: Foreign Languages & Literatur
Faculty Contact Lorie Brau Administrative Contact Elvine Bologna
Department Foreign Languages and Literatures Admin Email ebologa@unm.edu
Branch Main Campus Admin Phone 277-4771

Proposed effective term

Semester Fall Year 2015

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program Undergraduate Degree Program
Name of New or Existing Program BA Asian Studies
Select Category Major Degree Type B.A.
Select Action Deletion

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[MEMO grandfathering ASIN majors.docx](#)

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)
Please see attached file below.

[Reason for deletion of Asian Studies major.docx](#)

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.(upload a doc/pdf file)

Are you proposing a new undergraduate degree or new undergraduate certificate? If yes, upload the following documents.

Upload a two-page Executive Summary authorized by Associate Provost. (upload a doc/pdf file)

Upload memo from Associate Provost authorizing go-ahead to full proposal. (upload a doc/pdf file)

MEMO

To: Elizabeth Barton, Associate Registrar
From: Lorie Brau, Associate Prof. of Japanese
Re: Eliminating the Asian Studies Major
Date: 21 January 2015

The East Asian Studies major, to be housed in the department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will replace the Asian Studies major. Current majors in Asian Studies (as well as declared majors as of Spring 2015) will be allowed to either complete their BA in Asian Studies (according to the 2014-2015 catalogue) by the graduation date of Spring 2020. Alternatively, they may transfer to the new East Asian Studies BA if they prefer. We request that the Asian Studies major be deleted as of Fall 2015, and that Advisors and the Admissions Office be notified that the Asian Studies major (ASIN) is no longer available.

Thank you.

REASON FOR REQUEST: DELETION OF ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR

In the fall of 2014, the Foreign Languages and Literatures department submitted a proposal outlining a new major called “East Asian Studies.” This new major will replace the current Asian Studies major. Like the deleted Asian Studies major, the new East Asian Studies major will be inter-disciplinary, but will offer students interested in China or Japan an opportunity to acquire a higher degree of proficiency in Japanese and Chinese language and cultures than has been required by the present Asian Studies major.

Why the change?

The review team who participated in the 2013 International Studies program APR self-study recommended the elimination of the current Asian Studies major (as well as European Studies) for a number of reasons. While Asian Studies continues to attract a fair number of majors (16 declared, 4 intended majors as of the beginning of Fall 2014) and minors, these students have found it difficult to complete their degree in a timely manner because of a lack of faculty to teach the courses required for this inter-disciplinary program. A number of Asian Studies faculty have retired and have not been replaced. Often students must fulfill their requirements with classes that have little to do with their chosen East Asian focus. For example, students focusing on Japan have had to take history courses on the Middle East to meet the history requirement for the major.

Additionally, of the three focus areas prescribed for the Asian Studies major—East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East—East Asia has drawn the greatest number of students for the last ten or more years. There have been fewer Asian Studies majors concentrating on the Middle East, in spite of the build-up of Arabic in FLL. One reason for this may be the establishment of the International Studies major, which has attracted many students whose interests lean more toward the social science fields. It appears that most students concentrating on the Middle East are choosing to major in International Studies.