

DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE FORM C

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Nancy Montoya

Email: * nmontoya@unm.edu

Date: * 09-11-08

Phone Number: * 505 277-6353

Initiator's Rank / Title*

Dept Administrator 1:

Linguistics

Faculty Contact* Paul R. Platero

Administrative Contact*

Nancy C. Montoya

Department* Linguistics

Division

Program Navajo/Dine Language

Branch

Proposed effective term:

Semester

Fall

Year

2009

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program

Undergraduate Degree Program

CIP Code

Name of New or Existing Program

* Minor in Navajo Language and Linguistics

Catalog Page Number

240

Select Category

Minor

Degree Type

Select Action

Revision

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog.

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

Minor in Navajo Language The minor in Navajo Language requires 18 hours of Navajo language and Navajo linguistics courses at or above the 200 level. These hours must include NVJO 201, 202, 311, 312, and 401. Native speakers must take NVJO 206 and NVJO 315 in lieu of NVJO 201 and 202. Three additional hours must be selected from the following courses in Linguistics: LING 331, LING 359, LING 415, LING *401, LING *402 or from approved electives from LLSS or Native American Studies.

☐ This Change affects other departmental program/branch campuses

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

The minor in Navajo Language and Linguistics as it currently stands requires at least 21 hours of Navajo language courses numbered: NVJO 101, 102, 201, 202, 311, 312, and 401. Nine additional hours must be selected from approved electives from Linguistics, from the program in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies in the College of Education, or from Native American Studies. This totals 30 hours, which is much higher than the required hours for other minor programs across the university. We wish to revise the minor in our department at this time, in order to make the course requirement hours consistent with those of other minor programs in languages at UNM. The minors in both French and German require 15 hours beyond the 200 level and the minors in Spanish and Russian require 18 hours beyond the 200-level. The proposed revision requested here requires the non-speaker to take 18 hours at or above the 200 level: NVJO 201, 202, 311, 312, 401, and one elective. The proposed revision requested here requires the Native speaker to take 18 hours at or above the 200-level: NVJO 206, 311, 312, 315, 401 and one elective. The revised minor requires 3 credit hours of elective courses, rather than 9 hours. Navajo has been taught at UNM for over thirty-five years. The program is nationally and internationally recognized as the leading site for linguistic research on Navajo; primarily due to the pioneering work of Dr. Robert W. Young and Dr. William Morgan, Sr. The primary objective of the Navajo language program at UNM is to permit students to attain both speaking ability in Navajo and a clear understanding of the structure of the language. The Department is committed to both teaching and research that will aid the Navajo community in ensuring that the language remains a vital language actively learned and used in daily life. Equally important is the aim of recruiting and retaining native Navajo tenure-track faculty and native graduate and undergraduate students to provide a vital link between native communities and the department's faculty and non-native graduate students. If Navajo is to thrive as a vigorous and vital language, it is necessary to enhance the status of Navajo among students of all ages or the use of the language will continue to decline. The UNM Department of Linguistics has an important role and responsibility in helping to revitalize Navajo. The Minor in Navajo at UNM serves current students in Linguistics, Native American Studies, Education, and Anthropology, enhancing the career possibilities of Native American and non-Native American students interested in working in a bilingual cultural setting. It also serves as a recruitment tool in attracting students from Diné College, San Juan College, Navajo Technological College, and Navajo Preparatory School as well as Native American students from a variety of communities in New Mexico. Service to these communities is integral to the mission of the Linguistics Department and of UNM. This revision to the minor requirements is a first step in expanding and making more accessible UNM's Navajo Language Program in order to provide service to the community here and elsewhere. Expanding the Navajo Language Program at UNM will encourage a re-establishment of the Navajo language program in the public schools, and provide crucial links with other institutions in the state that offer Navajo programs. We have been working with these institutions to ensure Navajo language course work consistency and transferability.

Statements to address budgetary and Faculty Load Implications and Long-range planning

The proposed changes will not impact faculty load or budgets.

* (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)