

## **BOARD OF VISITORS ACTION FORM**

### **FOR PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES REQUIRING BOV AND SCHEV APPROVAL**

**PROPOSAL TITLE:**

Closure of B.A. in German degree program

**PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:**

The B.A. in German degree program is recommended for closure. Faculty were notified in January 2023 and the Dean approved the recommendation at that time. Action by the the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is required for closure. Prior to SCHEV submission, Board of Visitors action is required.

**APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE:**

Academic Affairs

**BRIEF NARRATIVE:**

In their policy entitled “Virginia Public Higher Education Policy on Program Productivity,” SCHEV establishes minimum FTE and graduates for academic programs. SCHEV’s productivity standards require degree programs in Productivity Group 3A (which includes foreign languages) to maintain a 5-year average of 36 FTE Majors and 9 Graduates. Since 1992, the B.A. in German has once enrolled 22 FTE Majors (2001-2) and has only graduated more than 9 students in four of the past 30 years (1993, 1994, 1999, 2004). Thus, there is not a demand for a B.A. in German at William & Mary. Importantly, the German program remains a vital part of the Arts & Sciences community with strong enrollment in language, literature, and cultural studies courses and the program contributes to the institution’s strategic priority of Study Abroad. The closure of the program will not impact any of these contributions nor will it impact faculty positions within the program.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

This closure is resource neutral. The university will continue to offer a curriculum in German language to fulfill the Foreign Language Proficiency and upper-level language and culture classes to support the German Studies minor and interdisciplinary programs.

**WILLIAM & MARY  
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF THE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GERMAN DEGREE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, William & Mary began offering bachelor's degrees with a concentration in German prior to 1900; and,

**WHEREAS**, enrollment in the B.A. in German degree program has declined over the last 20 years and there is no longer a demand for this program at William & Mary; and,

**WHEREAS**, student enrollment in the B.A. in German degree program consistently fails to meet the program productivity standards of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV); and,

**WHEREAS**, the 12 remaining students majoring in German have received notification of the program's closure and assurance that they will have access to all required German Studies courses remaining in order that they might complete their degree; and,

**WHEREAS**, faculty teaching courses in the B.A. in German degree program contribute to the university's COLL Curriculum, electives, interdisciplinary majors, and the German Studies minor; and,

**WHEREAS**, no faculty positions will be lost as a result of the discontinuance of the degree program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences concurs with the need to close the B.A. in German degree program;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon recommendation of the President and the Provost, the Board of Visitors approves the closure of the B.A. in German degree program.