FRENCH IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND BEYOND
Updates on French

- We respectfully request that French be taken off the recommended for suspension list and placed on the probationary one. The reasons for this request will constitute the major portion of this presentation.
- Updated Curriculum
- Increased student interest
- Plans for the future
Why this is important

- Eliminating the option to study upper-division French would be a failure to invest in the future.
- Students who know a second language make more money!
- Offering upper-level courses in multiple languages helps us align our programs with EKU’s diversity mission: the vision of diversity for EKU:

“Eastern Kentucky University will be an accessible, nurturing, and academically rigorous center of learning and scholarship that transforms lives and communities and enables them to adapt and succeed in a dynamic, global society.”
You may recall that Governor Bevin said he would not support those students who wanted to study French literature.

Literature is no longer the core focus of our curriculum. We teach linguistic skills and cultural competency so our students can gain professional employment and behave appropriately while interacting with individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Effective 2015*, a completely new and more relevant curriculum was introduced in the French section. We have seen increased enrollment in our upper-level courses but have not yet had time to see the positive impact of those curricular changes. Our enrollment in upper-level French more than doubled from Spring 2015 to Spring 2016!

Since our Program Review in 2014, we have been working to recruit students by updating the curriculum and adding opportunities for students to apply language skills.
The Academic Budget Committee reported the following for our numbers of majors. They counted ONLY first majors.

According to Banner, we pulled the following data. We included first and second majors. Our current numbers are 20 majors and 14 minors. This shows how students can complete a second major in a timely fashion and become more marketable.

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French in the world

- 5th most spoken language and a study by Natixis bank suggests it will be the most widely spoken language in the world by 2050.
- 274 million speakers
- 3rd most useful language in business
French is an important language globally and for Kentucky in particular

- Kentucky in particular, counts Canada as one of its most significant trade partners. In 2015, Governor Beshear led a trade mission to Canada entitled Kentucky Export Initiative (KEI). According to Kentucky.gov, “Canada is home to one of the world’s largest economies and is Kentucky’s largest trade partner...In 2014, Kentucky’s exports of products and services to Canada generated $4.3 billion for Kentucky’s GDP and supported more than 51,000 jobs in the state.”* This revenue for the state is contingent on contacts in French-speaking areas of Canada.

- In 2015, 34.5% of Kentucky's export revenues came from countries where French is an important official language.**


Meet our students

Our graduates go on to do a variety of exciting things. They have been extremely successful in gaining teaching assistantships in France (which are highly competitive) through the TAPIF program. These include Melissa Capella, Renee Dyehouse, Polly Hamilton and Joe Campbell just in the last two years. Our most recent graduates are pursuing degrees in French at the University of Tennessee (Maitland Dunwoody), University of Kentucky (Erin Woloschek, Jade Basford), University of Louisville (Joe Campbell) and the University of Cincinnati (Jeremy Denney). Others are studying global health at Duke (Allia Vaez), attending law school in Columbus, Ohio (Jordan Yurt) and Northern KY (Tarah Remy), and working as flight attendants (Spencer Manning) and translators!
Jobs and community service

- NGO donations / community service/
  Kentucky Refugee Ministries

  - The United Nations
  - The International Monetary Fund
  - The International Labor Bureau
  - The International Olympic Committee
  - The 31-member Council of Europe
  - The European Community

- The Olympic Games
- Doctors Without Borders
- CFA Franc
- Tourism
- Translating and interpreting
- International business
Plan for the future

- Many of our students are second majors and have chosen French because it complements their current studies. We highly encourage this for programs such as Criminal Justice, Public Health, Psychology, Globalization, Business, and International Studies to name a few. Maintaining a concentration would allow us to offer these skills to students making them more marketable in the professional arena.

- Update FCC offerings

- Add academic courses for students in the Global Village LLC

- We are investigating new options for a BA in Global Language and Culture. Cultural competency is an important 21st Century Skill and students learn to be competent culturally and linguistically to compete.
Money Matters

- We understand the new reality of budget cuts and performance based funding and we are working to make sure our students remain competitive in the job market.
- Cost. The French section does not cost much! The total operating budget for Languages, Cultures, and Humanities is minimal and we only have two full-time faculty members and are able to run our program.
- Eliminating French would make EKU the only institution among our benchmarks to not offer a minor or major in French. High achieving Honors students often take French!
- If we offer no upper-level French courses, we will have trouble awarding credit for study abroad programs.
- It just makes sense to keep French in some form at EKU!
- Euro Sticks is coming to Corbin: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxeO51tDKug
QUESTIONS?