SOMD Doctoral Language Requirement Revision Proposal

Rationale

Because of limited course offerings by departments outside of the SOMD, doctoral students experience difficulty completing their current language requirement. The replacement of the language requirement with "Research Development" courses provides students with more flexibility, and allows them to enroll in courses that will best aid them in preparing for their dissertation, lecture-document, or final project. This model also increases involvement of faculty advisors in guiding students toward their research and career goals. The replacement of the language requirement with "Research Development" courses is more equitable, in that no student will be exempt from completing this portion of degree coursework, the requirement does not prioritize the learning of western European languages, and classes chosen will be based on students' needs and their preferred path of study. While language classes are still an option under this model, students and their faculty advisors may instead opt for enrollment in other courses that will better serve the student.

In sum, the "Research Development" requirement

- Applies to all SOMD doctoral students
- Removes the requirement for language study, though continues to strongly support language study as a cornerstone of a liberal education
- Provides students with more flexibility to take courses that will aid them in preparing for the dissertation, lecture-document, or final project
- Increases involvement of faculty advisor in guiding students toward research and career goals

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (8 credits or 2 courses) [cannot be used to fulfill the requirement of 8 non-music credits] Courses completed for this requirement are intended to prepare the student for the research and writing/creation of the dissertation, lecture document, or final project, and must be chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to study any second language relevant to their studies; however, in certain circumstances—and with the support of the faculty advisor—a student may prioritize development of research skills in other areas of study. Students who have completed coursework comparable to one or more of the below classes, or are already proficient in language studies necessary for their path of study, must consult with their faculty advisor and choose other courses that will aid them in their research and/or writing development. Suggested choices include but are not limited to: • Language courses, including courses in Reading Knowledge and Translation. Language must be selected in consultation with the advisor. When UO coursework in the needed language is not available, students may substitute non-traditional language learning opportunities approved by the advisor and the SOMD graduate committee (e.g., online language learning, tutorials with a native speaker). • ENG 335 Inventing Arguments • WR 423 Advanced Composition • COLT 613 Graduate Studies in Translation • EDLD 625 Survey and Questionnaire Design • EDLD 659 Scholarly Writing • Other courses, e.g., in Writing, Education, Computer Science, History, Philosophy, or other relevant area approved by the advisor					

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I approve the above selection for fulfillment of the doctoral Research Development requirement.

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(Faculty Advisor Signature)   (Date)