

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution Updating the Foreign Language Requirement
Resolution 2025-26H**

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	11/11/2025
First Reading by Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies	02/23/2026
Approval by Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies	03/23/2026
First Reading by Faculty Senate	03/06/2026
Approval by Faculty Senate	04/03/2026
Staff Senate Comment	02/26/2026
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	03/12/2026
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Waived Right to Comment	03/30/2026
Undergraduate Student Senate Waived Right to Comment	03/30/2026
First Reading, University Council	04/20/2026
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Effective Date	Spring 2027 Cohort

WHEREAS, Presidential Policy Memorandum 68 (PPM 68) introduced a new undergraduate admissions requirement that students must have two units of a single foreign or classical language study during high school (3 units by the College of Arts and Sciences); and

WHEREAS, PPM 68 also allowed students to meet the requirement by earning 6 semester hours of college-level foreign language credit, such credits to be in addition to the number normally required for graduation in a student’s program of study; or by receiving credit by examination for a foreign or classical language”; and

WHEREAS, PPM 68 essentially created an admissions requirement but deferred its enforcement until the time a student graduates; and

WHEREAS, 98% of the 2017-2019 cohorts of admitted students met the language study requirement at the time of admission. Only 232 students out of a total of 23,684 took courses at Virginia Tech to meet the requirement; and

WHEREAS, for these 232 students, PPM 68 does not allow the foreign language courses taken to meet the requirement to count towards their degree which can delay a timely completion; and

WHEREAS, tracking this requirement at the time of graduation creates additional workload for departments, colleges, and university offices; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the language requirement at admission does not eliminate or preclude additional foreign or classical language courses as part of a specific degree requirement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the language study requirement be enforced at the time of admission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university will monitor for any unintentional barriers to admissions created by this change in enforcement by identifying changes in the pool of applicants denied admission due to the requirement.

LASTLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the university will monitor the impact of the enforcement change on undergraduate student enrollment in the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures department.



Staff Senate Comments

CUSP 2025-26H

February 26, 2026

Staff Senate has reviewed CUSP 2025-26AH and continues to be concerned with the potential for denying admission solely based on this requirement. While we acknowledge the relatively small numbers and the statement at the end that the University will monitor, the concern remains that this could be exclusionary to a population of applicants as an unintentional consequence.

Staff Senate has no further questions or comments.

Thank you,

Gabe Petry, Chair, Staff Senate Policies and Issues Committee



AP Faculty Senate Comments

CUSP 2025-26H - Updating Foreign Language Requirement

3/12/2026

The A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee has reviewed and endorses CUSP 2025-26H - Updating Foreign Language Requirement.

Although the resolution received majority approval from A/P Faculty Senators through an internal review and comment process, all submitted comments are provided here for your consideration. A formal response to these remarks is not required:

I fully support this resolution to shift enforcement of the foreign language study requirement from the point of graduation to the point of admission. The vast majority of students meet this requirement through high school coursework, yet because enforcement relies on manual review of high school transcripts, the requirement often appears unsatisfied on degree audit reports well into a student's final semester. This creates real and unnecessary anxiety at a time when students should be focused on finishing strong and celebrating their accomplishments. The consequences of this ambiguity are not trivial. Some students have enrolled in foreign language courses their last semester solely to clear their degree audit; with the intent to drop the course once the Registrar's manual graduation review is complete. This is an unintended outcome of a process problem. Virginia Tech's advising standard is to have students cleared for graduation prior to the last day to add classes in their final term. The manual nature of this requirement verification makes that goal impossible, placing additional burden on advisors, departments, and the Registrar's Office. Shifting enforcement to the point of admission resolves this cleanly. It preserves the intent of the requirement while eliminating unnecessary stress for students and administrative burden for faculty and staff. I urge the full Faculty Senate to support this resolution. It is the right action for our students, our advisors, and our institution.

What is the recommendation for students that this may impact? It says the university will monitor for unintentional barriers, but doesn't indicate what a proposed course of action might be or how to prevent discriminatory barriers to admission because of this proposed change.

I did not vote for the original resolution and am voting against this one for the same reason. I think it goes against our mission to exclude someone that has not had the same opportunities as others. Not all high schools provide the same opportunities.



I hope the resolution passes and it becomes an admissions requirement rather than being kicked down the road to a graduation requirement. I think especially important now that those extra 6 credits would be “excess courses” (I’m assuming) and potentially cause financial aid issues.

I fully support this resolution. As an advisor in the College of Engineering, working in one of the smaller programs, I regularly see the impact of the current Foreign Language (FL) requirement on students. Each year, 5–8 of my advisees are affected by this policy, and as of today, I have four students with outstanding FL requirements with a May 2026 graduation date. From their very first interaction with me, these students are informed about the requirement and the steps needed to resolve it. Beginning last summer, I also began proactively emailing the Registrar’s Office to request FL requirement reviews as early as possible. Despite these efforts, the requirement continues to generate significant anxiety for students who are trying to ensure they are “clear” for graduation. Because resolving the FL requirement is largely outside of their control, it adds unnecessary stress at an already high-pressure time. This requirement also places added workload on advisors and the Registrar’s Office due to the tracking, reviewing, and processing involved. Shifting enforcement of the FL requirement to the time of admission would reduce student anxiety, streamline processes for advisors, and lessen the administrative burden on the Registrar’s Office. I strongly support this change.