

TO: Members of CAA

RE: Foreign Language Requirement (proposed change)

FROM: Department of Special Education

DATE: November 14, 2008

The Department of Special Education supports the rescission of the additional year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. This would adversely affect our majors and particularly our transfer students and cohorts.

For our majors time to degree completion is an issue as the State scholarships for Special Education only pay for four years. Our programs that are designed to be 4-year programs are already at 126 semester hours.

While the impact on our majors would affect all our majors, the most significant impact will be on transfer students and students in our cohort programs. Under the new proposal, 70% of transfer students will not meet the foreign language requirement compared to 33% of entering freshman. In our cohorts 70% do not meet the current requirement, so it is likely that close to 80-85% would not meet a 3-year requirement.

Another concern for us is relative to those students who currently select sign language as the foreign language of choice. Under the proposal, this option would be abolished as students can not readily get an additional semester of sign language at a community college. Consequently, the only option may be a university such as ISU which has a deaf education program. In our programs numerous students utilize the sign language option as these are knowledge and skills they will use in their profession.

For all these reasons Special Education supports the rescission of this third year foreign language requirement.