Proposal to alter Foreign Language Requirement in the Liberal Studies Major, effective for students entering Westmont Fall 2009

In 2002, the General Education Committee agreed to the Department of Education's request to accept ENG 106: Language Acquisition; AND evidence of 3 years of a single high school language, in lieu of Westmont's normal GE requirement in languages.

The continuing member of the department requests that the Review Committee restore the "normal" GE language requirement for Liberal Studies majors.

The primary justification for this change is that Westmont's GE requirement is a critical (if embarrassingly small) component of a Liberal Arts education, and no group of students benefits more from additional language study than a group of prospective teachers.

This adds 4 additional hours to students' program, and in cases where students wish to do an off-campus program AND the fast-track, every additional requirement can in fact be burdensome. But the benefits of the requirement outweigh the drawbacks.

Andrew D. Mullen, Ph.D.
Professor of Education
Westmont College
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

(805) 565-6288