

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE Ph.D. PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature in the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary: In September 2012 (ESAC 3), a request to suspend admissions to the program in order to complete the review and restructuring of the curriculum was approved. The request to terminate the Program is necessary because the restructuring did not occur. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** Students in the program are involved in research and critical study of literature in an international context. Areas of study may include the history, theory and criticism of literature, the theory and practice of translation, and interdisciplinary work involving literature. Doctoral students must complete a minimum of 72 semester hours of coursework, at least four semester hours of dissertation credit, and at least one year’s supervised teaching or research. Students must be able to work in at least three literatures – each in the original language – as well as in literary theory and criticism.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** Since the suspension of admissions to the program in 2012, there have been no new students admitted to the program. The expected curriculum restructuring did not occur during the suspension period.
- ◇ **Five-year trend in enrollments and graduations.** Between 2011 and 2015, there were 16 applicants and 29 enrollees. During that period, there were no graduates.

	Applications	Admitted	Total Enrollment	Graduations
2011	8	0	9	0
2012	6	0	7	0
2013	2	0	7	0
2014	0	0	3	0
2015	0	0	3	0

- ◇ **Effect on current students.** As of Spring 2016, there are three students in the Ph.D. program. The students will be allowed to continue working toward a doctoral degree. It is anticipated that the students will graduate at the end of the Spring 2016 semester or soon thereafter.
- ◇ **Impact on resources.** The proposed termination is expected to have little or no effect on costs because faculty in this interdisciplinary program will continue to teach in their home department, including World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

- ◇ Impact on workforce. Minimal impact on the workforce is expected.
- ◇ Alternative programming. Students interested in a doctoral program in Comparative Literature will need to enroll outside of the state. There are no other post-secondary institutions in the state that offer a Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature. Other institutions that offer the program at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Penn State University, Indiana University - Bloomington, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign, and Northwestern University.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, termination of the program will become effective upon completion of the program by the three doctoral students who are currently enrolled. At such time, information about the termination of the program will be reflected on the department website and University Catalog.