

Chinese

December 2020 Report

Chinese - Data Based Decisions (2020)

- 1) The Chinese program students have displayed a bigger interest in content-based literature, culture and film classes because we have a Chinese major. The building of the major spurred bigger interest among students to pursue these courses. We have created new courses in “Chinese Popular Culture,” “Chinese/Sinophone Theater,” and “Chinese Classical Literature” to respond to these needs.
- 2) The quality of representative undergraduate research works has improved. We have now a steady stream of undergraduates winning College level summer mentorship grants, getting accepted at regional and national level of competitive conferences, and making an impact at various levels from the university to regional and national levels.
- 3) Students displayed a stronger interest in courses with specific focuses. For example, students asked for more knowledge about linguistic approaches and for theory exposure in language courses. In literature and culture courses, students displayed a stronger interest in theoretical exploration and theoretically informed approach to literary criticism.
- 4) Students' overall performances at the language TOP test at level 3 (advanced low to advanced mid) are better. More students are at advanced mid level. This group of students have more diverse and higher demands of properly challenging courses at the third year level and above.
- 5) Enrollment was steady, but overall we still need a bit more time (perhaps two more years) before we can support more fourth-year level courses with good enrollment.
- 6) Chinese major courses now need to be coordinated both with established courses inside the program as well as LANG courses that are offered in English. LANG 3550 is a popular intro course but should not be offered more than once per year. Instead, LANG 3990 and LANG 3570 could be offered as alternatives. In addition, instructors' courses now could afford more diversity, with language courses and lit/film courses combined, and/or CHIN and LANG courses combined. ---- It is just that we need to be careful because LANG courses could be another channel that attracts students who could qualify to take CHIN courses. So coordination between these two different pools of courses need to be paid attention to, to allow students as much diversity as possible in course choices.