

# UAB DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 - 2012 (FINAL Adopted 4/14/08)

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### VISION

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A renowned international languages and literatures department whose faculty and staff, through their teaching, scholarship and service, offer high-quality education aligned with current standards to students and communities alike.

### GOALS

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- Excellence in teaching and scholarship
- Preparation of students for post-baccalaureate studies, training for a highly competitive workforce, and promotion of life-long learning
- Diversification of the foreign languages curriculum
- Collaboration with other departments and schools

### WEAKNESSES

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- Inadequate classroom, office, and lab facilities
- Lack of technology in our classrooms
- Lack of technology knowledge/competence among faculty
- Lack of time for faculty to appropriately fulfill their scholarship requirements due to heavy service and teaching loads

### MISSION

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To educate, motivate, and inspire students to interact with people from other nations and/or cultures in a multiplicity of languages. The Department seeks to develop linguistically proficient and culturally competent individuals who think critically and communicate effectively in local, national, and global communities.

To foster the international exchange of knowledge and information between humanities scholar-teachers and other professionals. Our programs are rooted in diversity within and across cultures. Our instructional methods are aligned with national standards. The foreign language experience at UAB includes classroom learning, scholarship and research, experiential learning, and extracurricular opportunities.

### KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

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- Continued student interest and support
- Faculty support, involvement, and talent
- Innovative leadership that encourages inter-departmental cooperation
- Professional development opportunities
- Strong administrative support

### OPPORTUNITIES

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- Research-oriented environment
- Practical demand for languages
- Study abroad and experiential learning
- Collaborative endeavors

### VALUES

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- Language proficiency
- Diversity in languages and scholarship, faculty and students
- Global cross-cultural knowledge/exchange and their relationship to language learning

### STRENGTHS

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- Global and national need for languages and cultural understanding
- Strong student and community interest and enthusiasm
- Outstanding faculty teaching, research, service, collegiality, diversity, and talent
- Excellent faculty, support staff, and departmental leadership

### THREATS

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- Lack of resources given the increased demand for language instruction and research
- High priority on credit hour production by UAB administration
- Low priority on global and foreign language education in UAB undergraduate curriculum

### STAKEHOLDERS

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- Foreign language students
- Faculty and administration
- UAB and communities at large

# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 - 2012

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### FOCUS ISSUES/STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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- Implement Chinese and Japanese minors
- Complete funding for the Dr. William C. Carter Endowed Professorship in French and Proust Studies and recruit new faculty member
- Gain approval for and implement the Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate
- Enhance the departmental honors program

### OTHER OBJECTIVES to be DEVELOPED

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1. Strengthen agreements and exchanges with institutions abroad for students and faculty
2. Explore additional partnerships (i.e. Centers for International Business Education and Research, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham Sister City, Aula Cervantes, Goethe Institute and Confucius Institute)
3. Increase internal and external funding for professional development opportunities
4. Improve Foreign Language Media Services functionality
5. Consider feasibility of an Arabic minor
6. Consider feasibility of an Italian minor
7. Consider feasibility of a German track in the Foreign Languages major
8. Consider creating formal research groups
9. Consider creating a graduate program
10. Explore the development of programs to support foreign languages in area schools
11. Create and host interdisciplinary conferences