**MLC Mission Statement:**

The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of global citizenship by fostering both linguistic proficiency and intercultural awareness within a nurturing community of scholars.

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## PRIMO: PRIorities for MOrdern Languages and Cultures

### I. Enhancing the Experience within the Classroom

1. Maintain high standards in all our courses.
2. Continue to promote a sense of community through our interaction with students in the classroom and in related activities outside it.
3. Limit class enrollment to the recommended number of students.
4. Continue our immersion approach in the first year to reinforce linguistic skills while reserving two-days-per-week classes for content courses.
5. Emphasize the practice of oral production in real-life contexts.
6. Promote the effective use of classroom technology.
7. We will strive to make all language classrooms conducive to interactive teaching methodologies (e.g., moveable desks, spacious rooms).

### II. Connecting to a World beyond the Classroom

1. Preserve and strengthen strategic partnerships across campus (e.g., Living Learning Centers, Center for International Education).
2. Connect with professional organizations (e.g., American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Modern Language Association, Texas Foreign Language Association, and language-specific organizations).
3. Engage with the Waco community.
   a. Reach out to public and private schools in the Waco area.
   b. Offer opportunities to learn from guest speakers in the community whose work pertains to languages.
4. Engage the global community through service learning and humanitarian trips.
5. Assist students with job placement, mentoring, career services, internships, and apprenticeships.

### III. Fostering a Community of Scholars

1. Increase faculty scholarship and publication.

2. Create additional incentives and support for faculty publication and professional development.

3. Develop endowed professorships and research-related positions.

4. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration.

5. Encourage publication in highly-ranked journals.

6. Increase research-specific grant applications for outside funding.

7. Support undergraduate and graduate research.

### IV. Preparing Students for Global Citizenship and Leadership

1. Increase opportunities for students to learn about other cultures.

2. Increase overall enrollment in critical languages.

3. Create MLC faculty-led semester abroad programs.

4. Encourage more students to study abroad, especially language and area studies majors and minors.

5. Increase funding for study-abroad scholarships.

6. Promote national and international language-related scholarships (e.g., Fulbright, Boren, Gilman, Pickering, Critical Language Scholarships).

7. Promote intercultural exchange by providing opportunities for Baylor students to engage with international students.

### V. Enriching Academic Programs

1. Provide high-quality mentoring for students.

2. Expand MLC programs.
   
   a. Increase the number of students majoring and minoring in languages
b. Increase the number of major, minor, and specialized programs (e.g., translation, area studies).

c. Increase the number of advanced and graduate studies.

d. Increase the number of students in advanced courses and in graduate studies.

e. Explore the feasibility of expanding graduate programs.

3. Offer classes in languages for specific purposes, such as

   a. Courses in Spanish for heritage speakers.
   
   b. Service-learning courses in health care, business, social services, and other areas.
   
   c. Courses that bridge to Medical Humanities, Business, Education, and other disciplines, including STEM.

VI. Communicating the MLC Message

1. Develop a state-of-the-art website.

2. Boost efforts to publicize our programs, majors, and minors.

3. Collaborate with other disciplines to integrate language studies into their programs.

4. Take necessary steps to ensure that all students are better advised about language requirements and programs.

5. Track and maintain contact with alumni in language careers.

6. Publicize examples of language careers.