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Mr. Kristopher Morehead
President, Foreign Language Association of Missouri

Dear Mr. Morehead,

Thank you for reaching out to our department to let us know about the Foreign Language Association of Missouri's effort in establishing a Seal of Biliteracy that recognizes the language proficiency of K-12 students. The Department of Government, International Studies, and Languages strongly endorses this proposal, as we feel it is consistent with our mission that first and foremost seeks to help students effectively use their language skills and knowledge in teaching and any other career they may choose goals. We have for many years awarded credit for prior learning and proficiency. Given the continued attention paid to the recommendations of the Lumina Foundation by the Missouri legislature and Department of Higher Education, no student can be deemed to be globally competent without having some ability to express himself/herself in a second language and having some knowledge of the culture in which it is used. The United States is now the only first-world nation in which a monolingual adult can be considered as educated and employable, but the growing influence of globalization and internationalism is quickly bringing this era to an end. In short, in today's competitive job market, nothing can be more beneficial than a language study.

UCM already awards credit for prior learning based on several of the assessments the Seal might incorporate, including CLEP and Advanced Placement exams. Students who have taken high school language courses (French, German or Spanish) may enroll beyond the Elementary I level, and may apply for Validated Credit for the class(es) skipped. A student completing Elementary II with a grade of C or higher will receive three additional credit hours at no tuition charge; a student completing Intermediate I with a grade of C or higher will receive six additional credit hours at no tuition charge. Therefore, if the Seal of Biliteracy was established, the Department would grant 12 hours of credit for scores at the upper range of the Intermediate level.

Best of luck in your endeavor, and do let me know if you have further questions.

Best,