

Portuguese Flagship Program at UGA

UGA has received a significant grant from the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to establish an Undergraduate Flagship Program in Portuguese. Today, the need for more Portuguese speakers in the U.S. is greater than ever, particularly in light of Brazil's tremendous growth and geo-political influence. Portuguese is currently the 7th most spoken language in the world, yet very few high schools, and only a select number of university programs, in the U.S. offer the language. In response to this need, UGA is developing the nation's first and only Portuguese Flagship Program to enhance its pre-existing program, and increase the number of UGA students who graduate with a high level of proficiency in the language. Intended for highly motivated undergraduates seeking to internationalize their UGA education, the program will consist of intensive language instruction, one-on-one tutorials, Skype partners in Brazil, and other innovative curriculum. Flagship students will also spend a year in Brazil where they will reach professional-level Portuguese proficiency through language and content courses, as well as an internship experience. UGA is partnering with São Paulo State University (UNESP) for the overseas portion of the program. The Flagship model is designed so that students from as many majors as possible will be able to complete their degree on time, while also fulfilling the requirements of a Flagship certificate.

The National Security Education Program was established by Congress in 1991 to increase the ability of Americans to communicate and compete globally by knowing languages and cultures of other countries. As part of this initiative Flagship Programs have been launched in Chinese, Russian, Swahili, Arabic, and other languages considered vital to national security and to the challenges of a global society, such as environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, and economic pressures. For more information about NSEP's Flagship program see – <http://www.thelanguageflagship.org/home>

The Flagship Program will build upon a Portuguese program at UGA that is the fourth largest in the nation. "Acquiring this award – certainly one of the largest federal grants ever given to Portuguese instruction – was a joint effort between the Department of Romance Languages and the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute (LACSI)," said Dr. Robert Moser, Flagship Director and Associate Professor of Portuguese. "Key individuals from the Portuguese program, such as Dr. Susan Quinlan and Dr. Amélia Hutchinson, ROML faculty (Dr. Margaret Quesada), the LACSI staff, Office of International Education personnel, and even faculty from Forestry (Dr. Larry Morris) contributed to the success of this proposal. We are fortunate to have such a broad interest in Portuguese and Brazilian studies here at UGA. The Flagship program will create a unique opportunity for UGA students to not only reach a superior level of Portuguese, but also apply those language skills in rigorous academic and professional contexts."

The first cohort of students will be admitted into the program this January 2012. Applicants begin with the provisional status of Flagship Bound. Students become Flagship Scholars after successfully completing a year of appropriate Portuguese courses, and maintaining a strong academic record. Applicants will demonstrate a commitment to achieving a high level of proficiency in Portuguese and devoting a year to study abroad in Brazil, for which scholarships may be available. Student inquiries should be directed to Kathleen Schmaltz at schmaltz@uga.edu or 706-583-0388.

The Portuguese Flagship Program will admit undergraduate students of all majors who demonstrate a unique commitment to the study of Portuguese and the motivation to reach the highest levels of proficiency.

Flagship entrance requirements:

- Full-time undergraduate student admitted to UGA.
- Commitment to working towards a Superior level of Portuguese (ACTFL tested) upon completion of program.
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident, to be eligible for possible federal funding.

For more information regarding the Flagship program, contact Robert H. Moser, Portuguese Flagship Director, at rmoser@uga.edu or call 706-583-0618.