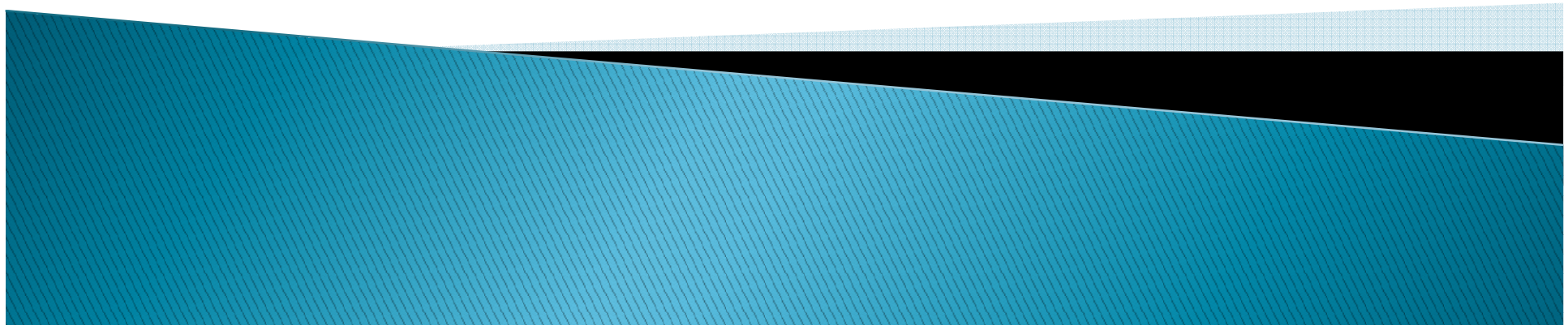


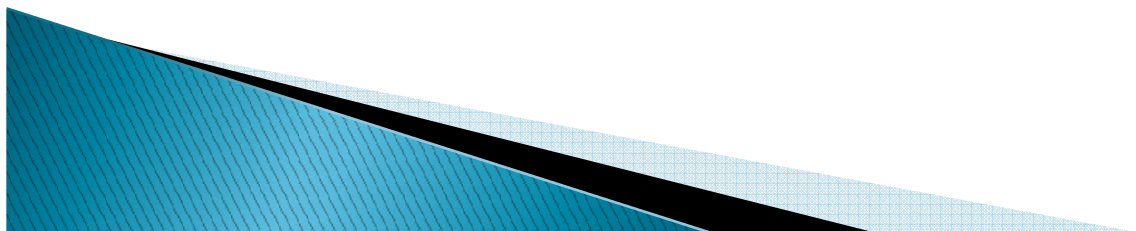
# French & FL Study in the U.S.:A Statistical Overview

Monique Fecteau, APUAF  
June 18, 2011 Conference – Paris  
*Transatlantic Voices & Perspectives*



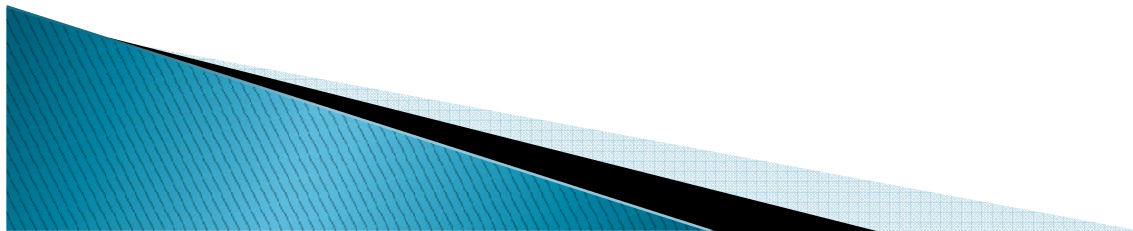
# MLA Survey: FL Learning in U.S. Colleges & Universities

- ▶ Since 1958 (Dec 2010 report is #22)
- ▶ Previous report: 2006
- ▶ Based on Fall course enrollments (vs. student)
- ▶ Fall 2009 participants: 2,514 institutions or 99% of all institutions offering FL courses  
2/3 = 4-year institutions    1/3 = 2-year
- ▶ Full report available at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)



# Fall 2009 – Highlights

- ▶ 6.6% increase in overall FL course enrollments between 2006 & 2009  
(vs. 12.9% increase between 2002 & 2006)
- ▶ Increases reported steadily since 1995
- ▶ Greater diversity of FL: more LCTLs
- ▶ Largest growth in 2006–09: Arabic (46.3% growth vs. 126.5% in previous period)
- ▶ Notable decline in graduate enrollments



# Ratio of FL course enrollments

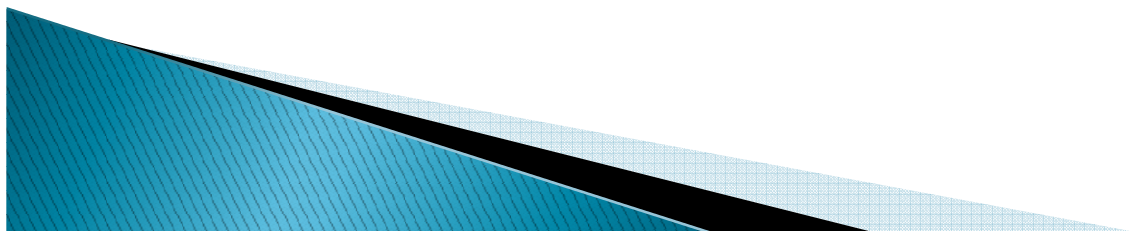
= Ratio of FL to *overall* course enrollments

2009            8.6 per 100

2006            8.6 per 100

1980            7.3 per 100

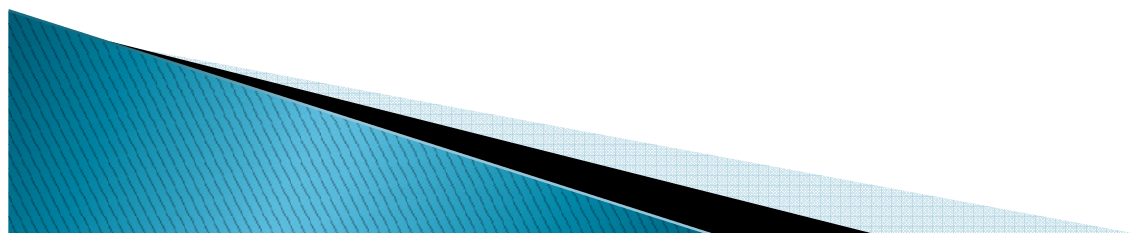
1965            16.5 per 100



# Why the decline in ratio?

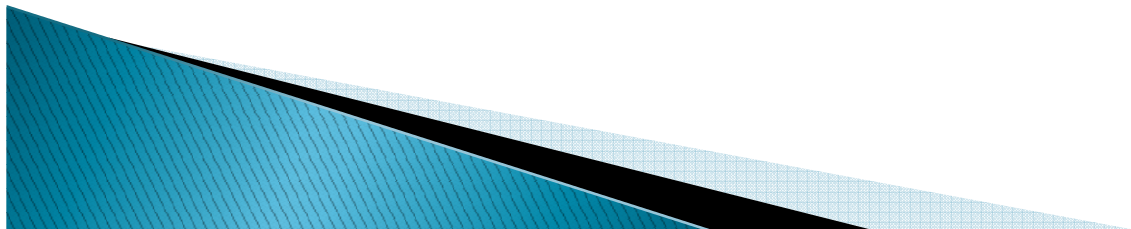
Since 1965, two noticeable trends:

- 1) Fewer language requirements in U.S. higher education.
- 2) Decrease in length of language requirement.



# Most studied languages

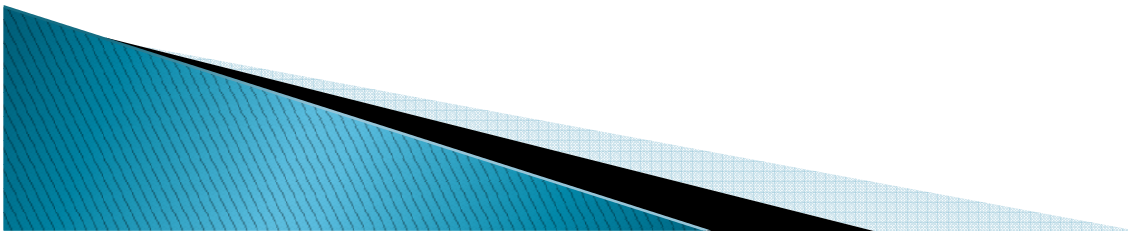
	<u>Enrollments</u>	<u>Increase since 2006</u>
Spanish	864, 986	+ 5.1%
French	216, 419	+ 4.8%
German	96, 349	+ 2.2%
ASL	91, 763	+ 16.4%
Italian	80, 752	+ 3.0%



# French enrollments 1990 – 2009

## Total number of course enrollments

1990	272, 472
1995	205, 351
1998	199, 064
2002	201, 979
2006	206, 426
2009	216, 419



# Breakdown by FR level – 2009

- ▶ One advanced enrollment\* for every 3 at introductory level (in 4-year institutions)

Intro French	162,314
Advanced French	54,105

- ▶ Same ratio as Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, & Russian

- Course enrollments, not number of students.
- Advanced students = enrolled in upper-level





# Geographical breakdown

- ▶ By region (i.e., Midwest, Northeast, West)

Only slight shifts between 2006 & 2009

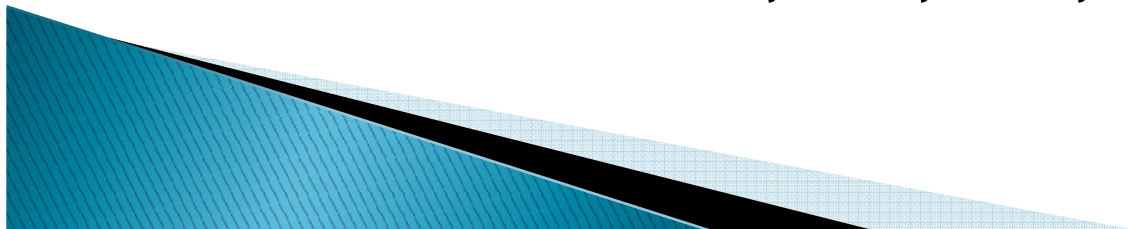
- ▶ By state

2006 : decline in enrollments in 5 states

2009 : losses reported in 11 states

< 5% : IA, KS, MA, ND, OK, TN, WA

> 5% : ID, ME, NH, NM

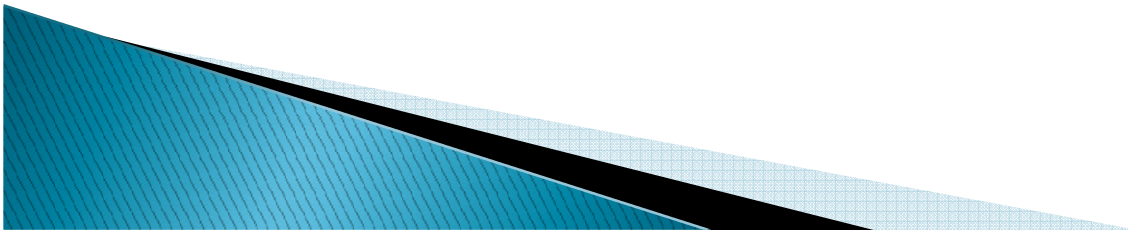


# 1st vs. 2nd Majors in Romance Lang

## Languages, literatures & linguistics

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2008</u>
1st Majors	10,014	11,206	12,395
2nd Majors	3,287	4,839	5,419

*Data on Second Majors in Language & Literature, 2001-08.*  
MLA Office of Research. Web publication, October 2010.

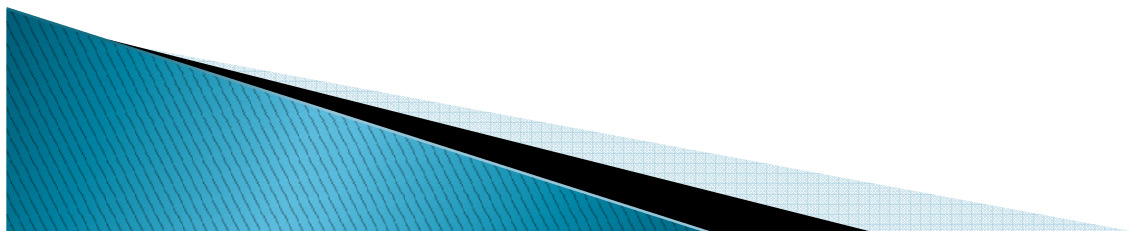


# MLA Data on 2nd Majors in FL

2001: 28% of students had 2nd major in FL & Lit

2008: 36% of B.A.s w/2nd major in FL, Lit & Ling

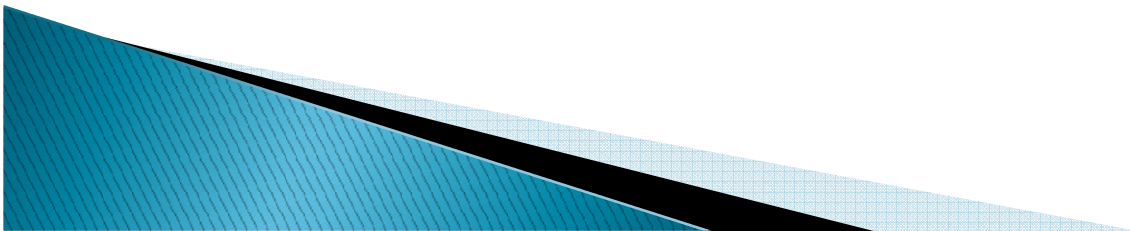
2008: In Germanic & Romance Languages, 2nd majors represent *over 40%* of number of 1st majors



# Advanced Placement (AP)

June 2008

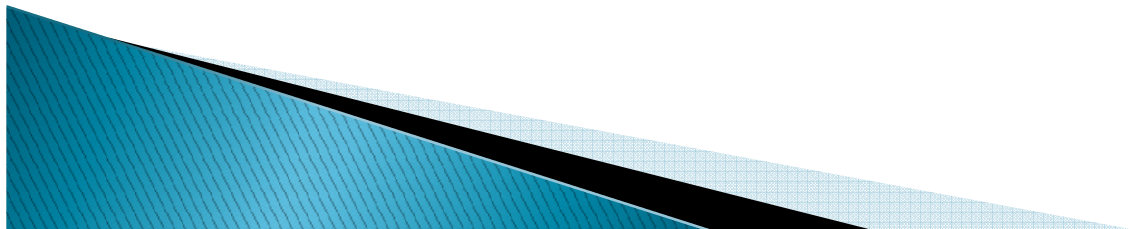
- ▶ College Board announces final AP French Literature exam to be given in May 2009 & pledges increased support to Language.
- ▶ ACTFL President expresses concern over CB's decision to eliminate several AP exams in FL (Italian, Latin, French Lit).



# AP French vs. Spanish Literature

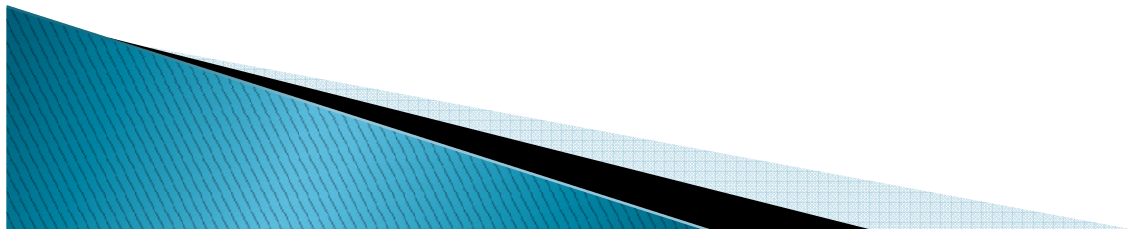
AP Literature exams taken by high schoolers

	<u>French</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
2007	902	11,660
2008	1,008	13,019
2009	840	13,367



# AP French vs. Spanish Language

	<u>French</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
2007	14, 220	79, 328
2008	13, 896	83, 612
2009	14, 222	85, 818



# Good & Bad News

## Is there a crisis in French study in the U.S.?

- + Stats suggest relative status quo *except* in French literature at h.s level. Will elimination of AP lit affect college level?
- + FL represent highest % of 2nd majors in college; over 40% in Romance languages. Focus on 2nd majors vs. 1st majors?
- Decreased language requirements since 1970s & lower ratio of FL course enrollments overall.
- Geographical decline in 2009. Impact of state budget cuts?
- 3:1 ratio of Introductory vs. Advanced learners at tertiary level. Role of curriculum design & course offerings?

