Enrollment Projections

Department of █████████████
University of ████████
Five-Year Forecast

Prepared for: Department of ██████████
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Executive Summary

This report presents enrollment projections for the ██████████████████████ Department of ██████████████. Projections were developed by combining historical enrollment data with key drivers that influence demand, including tuition trends, █████ economic and demographic indicators, and department-specific factors such as funding shifts, program changes, and new faculty hires.

Deliverables:
- Narrative rationale: This report explains the key drivers and assumptions behind the projections.
- Excel workbook: Historical and projected enrollments, including 1001-course demand and credit-hour calculations.

University-Wide Enrollment Trends

████ enrollment has reflected broader state patterns:
- **Growth (2015–2019):** Enrollment rose steadily, peaking around 19,748 in Fall 2019.
- **Pandemic Impact (2020–2021):** Numbers dipped to ~19,000.
- **Recent Recovery (2022–2025):** Enrollment stabilized and began to rise again, reaching 19,298 and 17,913 in the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters respectively.

Sources: ████ Semester Enrollment Reports, ████ News & Press Releases, Complete College ██████████ Campus Plan Updates, ████ Institutional Research Quick Facts.

Tuition Trends

Undergraduate tuition at ████ has remained relatively flat over the last decade:
- **FY2016–FY2017:** $2,676 per semester (in-state)
- **FY2018–FY2019:** $2,730
- **FY2020–FY2023:** $2,798
- **FY2025:** $2,865

This stability has helped sustain enrollments, as rising tuition has not been a deterrent in recent projections.

Source: Board of Regents of the University System of ████████

State of ████████ Economic and Demographic Context

████████ economy and population trends were key factors:
- **GDP Growth:** Positive overall since 2015, with downturn in 2020 (-6.29%) due to COVID, followed by strong rebounds (10.6% in 2021; 11% in 2022). Recent growth slowed but remained steady at +3.4% in 2024.
- **Forecast:** 2025 projected GDP growth at +3.1% (Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth, Terry College of Business).
- **Population Growth:** Consistent growth of ~1% annually, with minor dips during the pandemic years. Overall, steady increases are projected to continue. (Source: ████████ OPB state population projections)

Factors Affecting Modern Language Enrollment

Funding and Program Changes
- **Arabic:** Severely reduced after Project GO (Global Officer) funding cuts by DLNSEO in 2022. Enrollments are projected to decline to very low or zero.
- **Lowered Requirements:** With the restructuring of teacher education degrees to B.S. degrees, the modern language requirement has been reduced. Updates in other departments could have an adverse effect on modern language courses.
- **New Programs:** New offerings such as the BSN and Political Science (██████ campus), Elementary Education partnership with ██████████ Technical College, and expansions in cybersecurity, computer science, and Leadership Foundry are expected to boost overall enrollment and, indirectly, language minors.

Departmental Factors

- **French & Italian:** Recent or soon-to-be faculty hires are expected to revitalize these programs, leading to gradual enrollment increases.
- **Japanese & Korean:** Already strong and growing in popularity, with projections of continued growth, though moderated by resource capacity.
- **Spanish:** The largest program but expected to show slight declines as student interest diversifies.
- **Chinese:** Traditional program stabilizing at a low base; however, the ████████ ██████████████ track provides opportunities for modest growth.
- **Russian & German:** Stable to modest growth expected.
- **Portuguese:** When a minor is approved, we expect modest growth.

Other Influences

- **Admissions Policy:** Although ████ has made its admission policies more flexible since 2015, admissions changes have not significantly influenced enrollment; broader system policies and external events like COVID have been more impactful.
- **Reputation:** ████ improved standing among students, based on affordability, program quality, and recognition in rankings, is supporting both university-wide and departmental enrollments.

Notes

- **Intra-department dynamics:** 1000-level courses in the ██████████████ Department are four credit hour courses and count toward the Institutional Area of the ██ ████████ curriculum in which every student must take a modern language (1001, 1002, 2001, or 2002). See the "# of students in 1001" worksheet in the attached Excel file for historical and projected numbers of students enrolled in 1001 courses, the calculated number of credit hours that bring money to the university, plus notes about the projections.
- **Special Initiatives and Considerations for Potential Growth:**

- The Certificate in Language Studies is expected to add marginal increases in the short term, with greater growth potential later when the Certificate becomes stand alone and broadens to students from other departments.
- Several languages are restructuring or updating their plans of study or classes to align with students' interests and market demand.
- Faculty-led study abroad/away programs and internships in the languages are other ways to give students practical experience and training, making them more marketable upon graduation.
- Regional workforce demands for bilinguals include healthcare, education, logistics, hospitality/tourism, and manufacturing. Teacher shortages in world languages and continued interest in strategic languages by the military are important factors also.

Summary

███ enrollment has stabilized after pandemic-era declines, supported by steady tuition, state economic recovery, and population growth. Within the ███████████ Department, Arabic faces decline partially due to government funding cuts, Spanish will likely taper slightly, and programs like French, Italian, Japanese, and Korean are positioned for growth. Overall, the department is shifting toward a more balanced mix of programs, reducing reliance on a few large enrollments and increasing resilience.