The mission of the Master of Education in Languages, an interdisciplinary program offered by the School of Education, Health and Human Performance and the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs, is to broaden the candidates’ content area knowledge, to strengthen their language and language teaching skills, and to satisfy the professional development needs of practicing teachers. It may also respond to the interests of other language professionals or qualified individuals desiring to pursue advanced studies in language and linguistics. This program provides a solid background for future doctoral study in language education. The program is made up of two major components: core courses in linguistics, pedagogy, research methods, and technology; and language specific courses in French, Spanish, and the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages. The program’s standards-based curriculum adheres to the guidelines for the preparation of language teachers put forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the guidelines for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). It conforms to the School of Education’s conceptual framework, Teaching and Learning Standards, and the three Teacher Competencies. The M.Ed. in Languages program is in alignment with the institutional mission and the core values of the College of Charleston.

The M.Ed. in Languages is a part-time program that generally offers the student one or two courses per semester, including summers. During the academic year, campus courses are offered in the evenings in order to accommodate teachers’ schedules. The classes on teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are available in a blended form, a combination of on-line and face-to-face meetings. In addition to 36 hours of coursework, candidates in the M.Ed. in Languages program are required to complete and document field work amounting to at least 50 hours. Non practicing ESOL track students desiring to obtain the South Carolina State ESOL endorsement use EDFS 704 Practicum, 100 hours, as their field experience. The “capstone” experience for the majority of candidates consists of the submission of a standards-based teaching portfolio. All students pass through an exit interview with three committee members.

In regards to the organization of the program, as this is an interdisciplinary degree program, the director reports to the dean of the School of Education, the dean of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, and also to the dean of the Graduate School. The program has no budget other than the funds allotted to it which are used to hire one graduate assistant per year. The program director hires and supervises the graduate assistant. In collaboration with the language department chairs, the program director schedules the Language Education (LALE) core courses and the French and Spanish content courses. Seasoned professors as well as junior faculty are encouraged to become involved in the teaching of their academic specialties. The School of Education schedules the Educational Foundations (EDFS) classes which include the ESOL courses,
Technology Education, and Research Methods. Roster faculty and qualified adjunct personnel assure the teaching of the ESOL courses. No faculty members teach full-time in the program. All have undergraduate teaching responsibilities in their individual departments.

Forty degree-seeking students actively participated in the M.Ed. in Languages program during the 2009-2010 academic year (i.e., Summer II 09, Fall 09, Spring 10, Maymester 10, Summer I 10). The program also served several non-degree-seeking students. One student was removed from the program at the end of the fall semester because of poor academic performance. There were ten graduates this year. In the fall, two ESOL track students, Kindra Simon and Glenda Cerezo, completed their program of study, and three candidates received degrees in the Spanish concentration, Allison Zaubi, Yasiris Torres, and Amira Potter. In the spring there were two additional candidates in Spanish, Chad Allan and Glorimar Blanco, one candidate in ESOL, April Jenkinson, and one in French, Becca Stein. Stacy Patrick, French, will complete the program at the end of Summer I. Becca and Stacy are our last remaining active French track students. At this point, as no new French applications for fall 2010 have been received, it is suggested that future applicants be asked to sign a waiting list. If a cohort can be assembled next year, perhaps we can begin offering French classes again in the fall of 2011.

Noteworthy student accomplishments: Kindra Simon was hired in December by the Lexington County School District to teach ESOL and to coordinate the program. Fall graduate Allison Zaubi is teaching as an adjunct professor in Hispanic Studies where she is responsible for the SNAP classes. Spring graduate Chad Allan is entering a Ph.D. program at Kent State. Gloria Blanco has been hired by the Citadel to teach basic Spanish courses and April Jenkinson, who served as the program’s graduate assistant this year, will begin teaching high school Spanish in the fall in Rock Hill, SC. Upcoming program completer Tiffany Dixon is perfecting her language skills by studying abroad this summer in Trujillo, Spain.

Drs. Shawn Morrison, Silvia Rodriguez-Sabater, Abdellatif Attafi, Nicola Williams, Angela Cozart, Joseph Weyers, and Robyn Holman served on our students’ exit committees this year. All graduates presented a standards-based portfolio for their capstone experience.

Robyn Holman represented the program at the Graduate Council. Maryanne Verlinden was the at large LCWA representative.

The following list gives a complete inventory of the courses offered this year and the participation of our students in them.

LATE enrollment in the course
*(total enrollment may be higher)*
SUMMER II 09

LALE 602 Methodology 10

FALL 09

LALE 690 Special Topics: Language and Culture 7
FREN 590 Special Topics: Cultural Communication 4
SPAN 590 Special Topics: Creative Writing 10
EDFS 687 Technology Education 3
EDFS 672 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity (hybrid) 11
EDFS 635 Research Methods 5

SPRING 10

LALE 601 Applied Linguistics 14
SPAN 624 Latinos Literatures and Cultures 10
EDFS 673 Assessment (hybrid) 13
EDFS 687 Technology Education 2

MAYMESTER 10

EDFS 680 Content Areas (hybrid) 8

SUMMER I DAY

LALE 603 Second Language Acquisition 13