



June 2011

Master of Science in Computational Linguistics University of Washington Seattle Moderate Degree Change

Proposed Change Description and Rationale

The University of Washington (UW) seeks approval to convert a self-sustaining Master of Arts Computational Linguistics concentration (CLMA) within the university's Master of Arts Linguistics degree into a stand-alone Master of Science in Computational Linguistics degree. If the conversion is approved, it would take effect Fall 2011. No new students would be admitted to the CLMA degree program; however, students currently pursuing the concentration would be able to choose between completing the CLMA degree and the new degree, M.S. in Computational Linguistics. Like the CLMA, the M.S. in Computational Linguistics degree would serve 35 FTE students.

UW is proposing the conversion because the content of the Computational Linguistics concentration differs significantly from that of other Master of Arts Linguistics concentrations (General Linguistics and Romance Linguistics). Moreover, Computational Linguistics graduates are finding themselves at a disadvantage because the Master of Arts Linguistics degree title does not adequately convey the program's content to prospective employers. Both external reviewers indicated the new name is appropriate.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation

The proposed conversion meets moderate degree change criteria. The new degree title would benefit both students and employers by clearly communicating the academic focus of the course of study. It would also benefit the community by enhancing UW's ability to recruit high-caliber students.

After careful review of the proposal and supporting materials, HECB staff recommends approval of the Master of Science in Computational Linguistics at the University of Washington. The HECB's Education Committee discussed the proposal during its June 8, 2011 meeting and recommended approval by the full Board.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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RESOLUTION NO. 11-18

WHEREAS, The University of Washington proposes to offer a Master of Science in Computational Linguistics; and

WHEREAS, The degree would result from the conversion of a Master of Arts Computational Linguistics concentration within the university's Master of Arts Linguistics degree into a stand-alone Master of Science Computational Linguistics degree; and

WHEREAS, The conversion would benefit students and employers by clearly indicating the program's academic focus; and

WHEREAS, The conversion would benefit the community by enhancing the University of Washington's ability to recruit high-caliber students; and

WHEREAS, The conversion is a moderate degree change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in Computational Linguistics, effective June 30, 2011.

Adopted:

June 30, 2011

Attest:


Ethelda Burke, Chair


Earl Hale, Vice Chair