Submitted by: Mark L. Kornbluh, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN LINGUISTICS IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new Graduate Certificate in Linguistics, to be offered by the Linguistics Graduate Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), effective Fall 2022.

Background

This graduate certificate program aims to meet the demands of the increasing number of graduate or post-baccalaureate students whose academic and professional pursuits need some fundamental understanding of how language works as the key faculty of human cognition and intelligence, especially in a contemporary world that focuses increasingly on artificial intelligence (AI) as well as security and strategic intelligence. The Linguistics Program has the curricular, instructional, advising, and administrative resources in place to launch this program.

Program Description

The new program's curriculum includes courses that provide interested students with a basic understanding of how language is structured, acquired, and used. The program will be open to all graduate students whose career development would benefit from some background in linguistics, and will pair nicely with a range of Master's and PhD programs around the university. In addition to graduate students enrolled in various disciplines in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, those enrolled in degree programs in the arts, business and finance, marketing, education, engineering, information sciences, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work could also benefit from this new program's curriculum.

Admission Requirements

Admission to this program is contingent upon admission to the Wayne State University Graduate School. Students must also submit a one-page "statement of purpose" as part of their application materials. In the statement, the applicant should explain what has led them to the study of linguistics, what interests them about human language, and what they would like to do upon completion of this certificate program.

In addition to students exclusively applying for this new graduate certificate program, current Wayne State University graduate students can add the certificate to their current degree by filling out the Change of Graduate Status Request Form (PDF).

Curriculum Requirements

To complete the requirements of this certificate, students must complete a minimum of twelve graduate-level credits within three years, including:
- LIN 5700/ENG 5700: Introduction to Linguistic Theory (3 cr.)
- Either LIN 5290/ENG 5710: Phonology (3 cr.) or LIN 5300/ENG 5740: Syntax (3 cr.)
- At least one 7000-level LIN course (3-4 cr.)
- At least one other graduate level elective course (5000 level or above) in Linguistics (3-4 cr.)

Graduation Requirements
A minimum GPA of 3.0 must be achieved in course work to obtain the graduate certificate. Courses in which students receive grades of C or lower will not count toward the certificate. No transfer credit will be accepted for this certificate program. Graduating students must also complete an exit interview and provide program feedback via questionnaire.

Program Administration
The new graduate certificate program will be housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and administered by the Linguistics Program, its Director, Graduate Advisor, and participating faculty. There is an existing graduate admissions committee that will help with student admissions. The Graduate Advisor will assist students with course selection and monitor student progress.

Federal Student Aid Eligibility
The program is not seeking Title IV federal student aid eligibility. Students seeking the certificate will need to self-fund.

Budget and Resource Requirements
No additional budgetary resources are required for the certificate program. Courses will be taught by full-time participating faculty of the Linguistics Program, and the program will be administered by its Graduate Advisor and the Program Director, in consultation with the faculty and relevant committees.

Accreditation
No specialized accreditation is required.

Approvals
The proposal was approved by the faculty and Director of the Linguistics Program, the CLAS Faculty Council, the CLAS Faculty Assembly, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.