

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in Cognitive Linguistics

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for graduate degree programs. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the new program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: Case Western Reserve University seeks approval for a Master of Arts in Cognitive Linguistics degree.

Program Purpose/Mission: This unique proposed program will deliver a graduate degree in basic and applied science in cognitive linguistics, and is aimed at students who have a basic foundation in the study of language. A master's degree in Cognitive Linguistics will be the basis for many different kinds of careers. The demand for those with a foundation in cognitive science runs across industry, government and educational and cultural institutions. The program is designed to be distinctive in its methodology and its pedagogy. What sets it apart from other Masters programs in Linguistics is its emphasis on the principles of cognitive linguistics, rather than on more traditional linguistic approaches. Cognitive linguistics views language as an aspect of cognition and inseparable as a cognitive system from conceptual structure. Above all, the program will be multi-disciplined. Cognitive linguistics, which has arisen during the last thirty years, is a central component of cognitive science and a widely recognized and practiced area of research which interacts with many other disciplines: computer science, cognitive neuroscience, anthropology, psychology, and semiotics. Graduates work in any environment in which a technical knowledge of language is useful, such as software engineering, translation, governmental work dealing with globalization, medical conditions involving language, security work, speech therapy, elementary education, advertising, rhetorical design, and so on.

Enrollments: It is anticipated that the School of Graduate Studies will admit 4 to 10 students in Cognitive Linguistics during the first year and perhaps 8 each year thereafter. In general, admission levels will reflect the resources and research activities of the department.

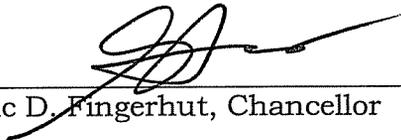
Curriculum: The proposed program requires 30 credit hours and a written thesis. The anticipated pace for completing the program is four semesters. The required courses include a two-semester theory sequence, a concurrent two-semester workshop sequence, electives, and 12 credit hours of thesis work.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources:

The administration of the program will be housed entirely in the Department of Cognitive Science, in a recently renovated unit on the Case campus. The core faculty is from the Department, with additional faculty resources from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Evidence of Need: Currently, there are no programs offering a Master of Arts in Cognitive Linguistics in the United States, despite well-documented demand. The program, with its unique emphasis on cognitive processes, and the mind and brain, should have the desirable effects of advancing the discipline and encouraging the creation of similar programs at other institutions throughout the country and internationally. The demand for those with a foundation in cognitive science runs across industry, government, and educational and cultural institutions. Fields that show a growing interest in job candidates with expertise in cognitive studies include the technology sector, particularly in natural language processing and human interface design; education and related institutions, such as museums; human factors engineering; organizational behavior in management; marketing; and politics.

End of Comment Period: May 21, 2008
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	
	6/16/08
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date