: COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS - FLOATING

In Workflow

1. U Program Review (eastuby@illinois.edu; mhazen@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)
2. 1864-LING Committee Chair (jedunn@illinois.edu; rsadler@illinois.edu)
3. 1864-LING Head (tionin@illinois.edu)
4. SLCL Head (melendez@illinois.edu)
5. KV Dean (las-catalog@illinois.edu)
6. University Librarian (clairest@illinois.edu; tteper@illinois.edu)
7. Grad_College (agrindly@illinois.edu; lowry@illinois.edu)
8. COTE Programs (suzannel@illinois.edu)
9. Provost (bsnewell@illinois.edu)
10. Senate EPC (bjlehman@illinois.edu;bsnewell@illinois.edu)
11. Senate (jtempel@illinois.edu;bjlehman@illinois.edu)
12. U Senate Conf (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
13. Board of Trustees (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
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16. DOE (mtrame@illinois.edu)
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18. DMI (eastuby@illinois.edu; nnagy2@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)

Approval Path

1. Wed, 05 Aug 2026 20:47:56 GMT
   Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
2. Mon, 10 Aug 2026 16:21:41 GMT
   Eman Saadah (esaadah2): Approved for 1864-LING Committee Chair
3. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 19:10:32 GMT
   Tania Ionin (tionin): Approved for 1864-LING Head
4. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 19:58:39 GMT
   Mariselle Melendez (melendez): Approved for SLCL Head
5. Fri, 25 Sep 2026 19:22:46 GMT
   Stephen Downie (sdownie): Approved for KV Dean
6. Fri, 25 Sep 2026 21:07:02 GMT
   Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
7. Wed, 07 Oct 2026 19:35:11 GMT
   Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad_College
8. Wed, 07 Oct 2026 20:59:52 GMT
   Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
9. Wed, 14 Oct 2026 13:05:49 GMT
   Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

New Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 29 Jul 2026 15:03:11 GMT

Viewing: : Computational Linguistics - Floating

Last edit: Thu, 29 Oct 2026 15:43:03 GMT

Changes proposed by: Jonathan Dunn

Proposal Type

Proposal Type:

Concentration (ex. Dietetics)

Administration Details

Official Program Name

Computational Linguistics - Floating

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

Linguistics

Sponsor Name

Jonathan Dunn

Sponsor Email

jedunn@illinois.edu

College Contact

Stephen R. Downie

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College Budget Officer

Michael Wellens

College Budget Officer Email

wellens@illinois.edu

If additional stakeholders other than the Sponsor and College Contacts listed above should be contacted if questions during the review process arise, please list them here.

Tania Ionin, tionin@illinois.edu
Melissa Reedy, murray@illinois.edu (LAS Assistant Director Course & Cir Dvt)

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

Catalog Term

Desired Effective Catalog Term

Fall 2027

Effective Catalog

2027-2028

Proposal Title

Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Establish the Concentration in Computational Linguistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

Are there other related proposals that should be considered simultaneously with this one? If yes, please list the program keys and/or titles. Consider Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Joint Programs in your department. Please know that this information is used administratively to move related proposals through workflow efficiently and together as needed. Format your response like the following "This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145)"

Program Justification

Provide a brief justification of the program, including highlights of the program objectives, and the careers, occupations, or further educational opportunities for which the program will prepare graduates, when appropriate.

Computational Linguistics, also called Natural Language Processing, is a specialty within linguistics which deals with the computational processing and analysis of language data. Both names are used interchangeably; for example, the main venue for work in natural language processing (NLP) is called the Association for Computational Linguistics.

This sub-field has long been an area of study within the Department of Linguistics. However, the maturation of the field into a separate discipline from linguistics proper necessitates that students have evidence on their transcript to maintain competitiveness on the job market. In other words, a PhD in Linguistics or Spanish Linguistics (e.g.) is no longer sufficient for communicating what our students have been working on. Thus, this proposal seeks to create a transcriptable PhD concentration in order to recognize an area that already exists within the department in response to developments in the job market.

A similar non-transcriptable graduate certificate has existed for some time within the Department of Linguistics. We would like to expand this into a transcriptable concentration. We believe that the current state of the job market requires that students in this area be explicitly recognized for their expertise. The graduate certificate will be retained for flexibility and for continuity, but future PhD students are likely to pursue this concentration. Because the concentration requires that the dissertation include a computational component, this concentration is not open to Masters students, who will continue to be served by the existing graduate certificate.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

No

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

Yes

Please email the Department Head or a CIM User in the Department Head role of the units that own the courses that are impacted by the creation/revision/phase down or elimination of this program. For example, if you are adding a course, you will need support from the course owning unit to do so. Likewise, if you are removing a course or adding additional courses where enrollment in existing courses in the program of study could be impacted, you will need acknowledgement from the course owning unit. If the program has potential for perceived overlap with another unit on campus, you should have consultation with the other unit/stakeholders. Once this is complete, acknowledge that you have done so below.

Acknowledged

Indicate which departments/units/stakeholders were notified/consulted by listing the name of the department(s). For example, if you are adding a course owned by the Department of Philosophy and a course owned by the Department of Theatre and notified the units accordingly, you would include in the box below: 1. Department of Philosophy; 2. Department of Theatre.

1. Department of French and Italian
2. Department of Spanish and Portuguese
3. Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Please attach any letters of support/acknowledgement for any Instructional Resources. Consider faculty, students, and/or other impacted units as appropriate.

Letter_of_Support_SpanPort-1.pdf
Letter_of_Support_FRIT.pdf
Letter_of_Support_EALC-1.pdf

Program Features

Academic Level

Graduate

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Program of Study

Attach Program of Study related information here.

Catalog Page Text - Overview Tab

Catalog Page Overview Text

Computational Linguistics, also called Natural Language Processing (NLP), studies the intersection of language and computation. This intersection includes two major lines of work: First, computational linguistics applies computational methods to generate and understand natural language data. Second, computational linguistics uses computational experiments to better understand language itself. This PhD Concentration trains students from linguistics and closely related areas in computational linguistics and natural language processing. The concentration requires three core courses, two elective courses, and the inclusion of a substantial computational component in the dissertation.

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Courses		**12**
LING 413	Computational Corpus Linguistics	4
LING 414	Advanced Computational Linguistics	4
LING 448	Introductory Machine Learning (or equivalent)	4
Electives		**8**
Two 400-/500-level courses in consultation with the program director		
LING 442	Computational Sociolinguistics	
LING 443	Computational Semantics	
LING 444	Computational Syntax	
LING 446	Fundamentals for Speech Signal Processing and Analysis	

LING 506	Topics in Computational Ling	
Total Hours		**20**

Code	Title	Hours
Other Requirements		
In addition to the concentration requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their programs of study.		

In order to earn this concentration, the student's dissertation topic must be related to one or more aspects of computational linguistics or natural language processing. The concentration's Executive Committee is responsible for verifying that the content qualifies.

Program Relationships

Corresponding Program(s):

Corresponding Program(s)
Linguistics, PhD
East Asian Languages and Cultures, PhD
Spanish, PhD
Portuguese, PhD
French, PhD
Italian, PhD

Program Regulation and Assessment

Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning

Illinois Administrative Code: 1050.30(b)(1)(D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record keeping.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this PhD Concentration, students will be able to:

1. Implement state-of-the-art models and systems in natural language processing
2. Interpret the results of state-of-the-art models from a linguistic perspective
3. Evaluate model performance across languages, populations, and social contexts
4. Compare the findings of computational experiments with alternate methodologies
5. Design new models that integrate knowledge about human languages and their usage

Program Description and Requirements Attach Documents

Delivery Method

This program is available:

On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

Enrollment

Number of Students in Program (estimate)

Year One Estimate

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2

5th Year Estimate (or when fully implemented)

3

Budget

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget Information

This concentration will not require additional financial resources. The courses already exist and this is already a well-represented speciality within the Department of Linguistics. The goal of this concentration is to formalize and provide transcriptable evidence for a curriculum that already exists within the department.

Attach File(s)

Program Support

Provide a brief description of the support for this program, including the financial, faculty, space, advisors/staff. Discuss plans to acquire any additional support that will be needed. If new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities is needed, describe the Facility Need, Year 1 and 5 cost, and any other applicable notes.

This program will not require new resources because it is providing a formal, transcriptable concentration for graduate education which is already in place (i.e., all required courses are already taught regularly). Graduate students from the contributing programs (Linguistics, Spanish and Portuguese, French and Italian, East Asian Languages and Cultures) already regularly take this set of courses; thus, we also do not anticipate increased enrollments. For these reasons, no new resources are required.

Financial Support. The primary PhD programs involved will continue to provide their same level of support for their students, so no changes will be necessary.

Faculty Support. Existing faculty will be sufficient for teaching and supervising these students.

Advising and Staff Support. The graduate advisors for each PhD program will continue to support their students.

Space and Facilities. No new facilities are required.

Future Support Needs. We do not anticipate that this concentration will influence the size of the relevant graduate programs.

Attach any supporting documents as applicable.

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

The proposal team consulted with Paula Carns and, based upon their input, determined that the Library's resources, collections, and services are sufficient to meet the needs of the program outlined in this proposal.

HLC Section

Credit Hours

Existing or repackaged curricula (Courses from existing inventory of courses):

Number of Credit Hours:

20

Percent of Total:

100

Revised or redesigned curricula (Courses for which content has been revised for the new program):

Number of Credit Hours:

0

Percent of Total:

0

New curricula (Courses developed for the new program that have never been offered):

Number of Credit Hours:

0

Percent of Total:

0

Total Credit Hours of the Program:

Number of Credit Hours:

20

Percent of Total:

100

EP Documentation

EP Control Number

EP.27.066

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

Program Code:

Minor Code

Conc Code

Degree Code

Major Code

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Program Reviewer Comments

Key: 1403