

Docket Item:

University Program Approval: University of Oregon, Master of Arts in Language Teaching Studies

Summary:

University of Oregon proposes a new degree program leading to a Master of Arts in Language Teaching Studies. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program: MA degree in Language Teaching Studies at University of Oregon.



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

The University of Oregon seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to a M.A. in Language Teaching Studies.

1. *Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution’s mission and strategic plan.*

The proposed Language Teaching Studies (LTS) program specifically advances the University of Oregon’s (UO) goal of “application of knowledge”¹ within the field of applied second language studies and pedagogy. The Linguistics Department as a whole contributes to the UO’s identity as a “comprehensive public research university” through empirical research and theoretical work in the study of language and languages. The LTS and the Linguistics Department both exemplify commitment to international awareness and understanding, and “fostering the next generation of transformational leaders and informed participants in the global community.”

The LTS contributes to student access and diversity by welcoming a wide range of applicants from local, international, and underrepresented communities. It offers a unique point of access for minority language groups in the U.S., such as heritage speakers of Spanish and Russian, who wish to be involved in their own community efforts to recognize and preserve their home languages. Moreover, speakers of indigenous Northwest languages from Oregon and neighboring states, such as Sahaptin, Chinook Wawa, and Tolowa Dee-Ni¹, have the opportunity to earn an M.A. degree in teaching or developing curricula for their languages, often in conjunction with working with the Northwest Indian Language Institute at the UO. In addition to its commitment to local applicants, LTS exemplifies international diversity. Almost half of the LTS cohort are international students from a wide range of countries; the collaboration of both international and domestic students in the cohorts contribute to global awareness and understanding both at the UO and abroad.

2. *What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?*

The consistent enrollment over the past 12 years in the LTS track of the Linguistics master’s degree program points to the sustainability of this program. The annual number of applicants who apply and want to pursue the LTS track has ranged in the last five years between 43 and 72. The average number of degrees awarded each year has been 18.1, while the number of students enrolled in the program during the academic year is 20-25 students. In Summer terms, the outgoing and incoming cohorts overlap, resulting in a range of 35-45 students in summer.

¹ Quotations taken from the UO Mission Statement: <https://provost.uoregon.edu/content/mission-statement-revision>

3. *Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?*

Other Masters programs related to language pedagogy at UO or in the state of Oregon are listed below; each only partially overlaps with the LTS in terms of content and outcomes.

- The M.A. TESOL at Portland State University. This two-year program focuses exclusively on English language teaching. Thus, the M.A. TESOL at PSU does not have as its mission the preparation of teachers of other world languages or teachers of indigenous languages. LTS students who focus on teaching multiple languages or a language other than English are thus served most appropriately by LTS.
- The UOTeach Licensure Program in the UO's School of Education. UOTeach prepares participants for K-12 teaching licensure in Oregon, while the LTS provides extensive language-teacher training from a linguistic perspective for teachers in multiple teaching contexts (such as adult language education). LTS and the School of Education collaborate formally by offering shared required and elective coursework.
- M.A. degrees at UO or in other Oregon public universities and programs. Unlike LTS, these departments do not focus their M.A. curriculum on language acquisition, pedagogy, curriculum design, and assessment; rather they tend to focus on substantial literature or linguistics courses in the target language(s) of the department.

All appropriate University committees and the Statewide Provosts Council have unanimously approved the proposed program. The University of Oregon's Board of Trustees approved the program on March 2, 2017.

Recommendation to the Commission

The Statewide Provosts Council recommends that the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission authorize the University of Oregon to establish an instructional program leading to a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Language Teaching Studies, effective Fall 2017.

Institution: University of Oregon
Program: M.A. in Language Teaching Studies

Action: At the April 6, 2017 meeting, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program for the University of Oregon, M.A. in Language Teaching Studies, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review and approval. The University of Oregon's Board of Trustees approved it at their March 2, 2017 meeting.

Eastern Oregon University

Sarah Witte, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Oregon Health & Science University

Elena Andresen, interim provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Oregon State University

Ed Feser, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Oregon Tech

LeAnn Maupin, acting provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Portland State University

Sona Andrews, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Southern Oregon University

Susan Walsh, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



University of Oregon

Scott Coltrane, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained



Western Oregon University

Steve Scheck, provost

Approved
 Opposed
 Abstained

