TO: Marilyn Geist, Secretary to the Graduate Council, Graduate School, YONG 160
VIA: Margaret Moan Rowe, Dean, Liberal Arts, LAEB
FROM: Thomas P. Adler, Head, English, HEAV
DATE: 7 December 2000
RE: Certificate Program Approval

At its November meeting, the faculty of the Department of English unanimously approved the institution of a graduate level academic certificate program in Natural Language Processing (NLP)—see attached document. I am pleased to add my endorsement and request that you do as well, before transmitting it on to the Graduate School. Thank you.

Approval recommended:

[Signature]
Thomas P. Adler
Head, Department of English

[Signature]
Margaret Moan Rowe
Dean, School of Liberal Arts
Graduate Level Academic Credit Program

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

Purdue University

Department of English, School of Liberal Arts

Rationale

The need in NLP specialists was growing steadily in academia, government, and industry throughout the 1980-90s. The need was filled by computer scientists or linguists who had to learn computational linguistics on the job. Throughout this time, a small number of computational linguists was prepared in the Department (which was one of the very few places in the nation where this was done), and all the components for this preparation were in place. A Natural Language Processing Laboratory, established in 1986, has provided a basis for ongoing research in the field. The development of the Internet-based industry in the last two years, especially search, information, and advice services, have made the need in NLP specialists critical and their national and international shortage obvious. The proposed Certificate Program is Purdue's contribution to alleviate the shortage as well as placing Purdue graduates in leading positions in the new industry.

It is anticipated that 5-10 students per year will participate in the Program initially, that the number may grow to 15-20 per year, and that more than 75% of them will also be concurrently working toward a degree at Purdue University.

As the Department of English through its Program in English Language and Linguistics already offers 4 of the 5 required courses and the remaining requirement can be satisfied with one of several options available to all Purdue students and already regularly used by graduate students in English Language and Linguistics, the Program can begin as soon as it is approved.

Admission Requirements

Students currently admitted to a degree program are eligible to earn the Certificate. Students may complete the Program requirements independently of their field of study.
**Completion Requirements**

The NLP Certificate is a postbaccalaureate program and requires 15 credit hours (5 three-credit courses):

ENGL 506: Introduction to English and General Linguistics  
ENGL 511: Semantics  
ENGL 512: English Syntax and Syntactic Theory  
ENGL 628: Natural Language Processing

and any undergraduate-level course in one or more programming languages or any one of the following courses in programming languages and related areas:

CS 565: Programming Languages  
ECE 570 (IE 547): Programming Techniques for Artificial Intelligence  
IE 548: Knowledge-Based Systems  
MGMT 544: Database Management Systems

To fulfill the Certificate Program requirements, a minimum GPA of 3.5 must be attained and a minimum grade of "B" earned for any course applied to the certificate. All courses must be taken for a letter grade.

A maximum of 6 credits may be transferred from other institutions to meet the requirements of the Certificate if the Coordinator of the Natural Language Processing Laboratory, upon consultation with the English Language and Linguistics faculty, approves. Only courses with a grade of "B" or above and completed within five years prior to the awarding of the Certificate will be accepted.

A maximum of 3 credits from undergraduate-level courses may be used for the Certificate.

Maximum time allowed for completion of the Certificate is 5 years.

Courses may be applied for credit toward the completion of more than one certificate.

Courses taken prior to admission to the Certificate Program may be counted toward completion of the Certificate.

**Administration**

The Coordinator of the Natural Language Processing Laboratory will serve as director of the Certificate Program and work with the faculty of the English Language and Linguistics to oversee the Program, including the process for certifying completion of requirements and notifying the Graduate School. The Office of Graduate Studies will track student progress in the Certificate from application through admission to completion.

Once the Certificate Program is completed, the Office of the Registrar will send the Certificate to the Office of Graduate Studies in the Department of English.