

**TOPIC:                    PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN LINGUISTICS AT METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER**

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**I.        SUMMARY**

Metropolitan State College of Denver has submitted a proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics. This degree will combine two existing minor degree programs in its English Department. Currently, students must develop an Individualized Degree Program to pursue a degree in Linguistics.

**II.        BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from the Metropolitan State College of Denver's request:

The proposed Linguistics major, which utilizes aspects of both existing minors, is designed to prepare students for a graduate program in linguistics or a particular linguistics subfield, such as anthropological linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, modern or classical languages, or ESL. The Linguistics major is a way of serving non-native English speakers, as well as the wide range of English speakers, because it emphasizes all languages and all varieties of English as legitimate objects of analytical study. The interdisciplinary nature of linguistics forces students to think in ways that are cooperative and creative.

**ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

This degree supports the role and mission of Metropolitan State College of Denver. The statutory mission states:

*There is hereby established a college at Denver, to be known as Metropolitan state college of Denver, which shall be a comprehensive institution with modified open admission standards at the baccalaureate level; except that nontraditional students at the baccalaureate level who are at least twenty years of age shall only have as an admission requirement a high school diploma, a GED high school equivalency certificate, or the equivalent thereof. Metropolitan state college of Denver shall offer a variety of liberal arts and science, technical, and educational programs. The college may offer a limited number of professional programs. In furtherance of its role and mission, Metropolitan state college of Denver may offer master's degree programs that address the needs of its urban service area. C.R.S. 23-54-101*

## **FACULTY & RESOURCES**

Since the proposed Linguistics major is a combination of two already-existing minors, the expense of creating a major is minimal. At the present time, the program has two full-time tenure/tenure-track faculty members and one full-time temporary faculty member, plus other English faculty who teach in specialty areas (History of the English Language, Old Norse, Old English, and Latin). In addition, the program utilizes courses taught in other departments, such as Modern Languages, Anthropology, Communication Arts and Sciences, Philosophy, and Psychology.

## **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129 (6)(b), Department staff finds that the proposed program fits the centrality of the institution's statutory role and mission to offer a variety of liberal arts and science, technical, and educational programs in the state of Colorado.

## **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Bachelor of Arts Degree is consistent with Metropolitan State College of Denver's campus role and mission. Staff recommends that the Commission approve this degree.**

## **V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.

## **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-5-129(6)(b)

(6) (b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.