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Tune in to Natural Language Technology

Help people and businesses refine mass-data into useful information by learning to join new technology tools with natural language fundamentals.

Bridge the Communication Gap Between People and PCs

As we become more reliant on technology, so grows the need for a way to connect the way we naturally communicate with the way technology operates. Natural language processing is a search technology that helps sort and integrate data, identifying the meaning and context of words to deliver more relevant results to a web searcher or organization. A growing number of companies are turning to natural language processing as a means of identifying and accessing strategic and commercial information.

Be at the forefront of this new technology with the Natural Language Technology Certificate Program. You'll learn how speech and language processing can be applied to machine translation and information retrieval in the following forms:

- Predictive text messaging
- Speech recognition software
- Dialogue systems
- Speech prosthetics

Prepare for Your Career in Natural Language Technology

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Washington developed the Natural Language Technology program to meet the growing demand for people trained in the field. As a certificate program, it's designed to fit the schedules of busy working professionals, so you can prepare for your new career without disrupting your work life.

Fast Facts

How can you use this certificate? Some common applications of natural language processing include:

- Biomedical informatics, including intelligent search and indexing of patient records for improved diagnosis
- Litigation support
- Monitoring of world events
- Predictive text to improve input methods in mobile devices
- Context-sensitive advertising
- Monitoring the Web to gauge the reputation of products
- Spell and grammar checking

Natural Language Technology Courses

The following courses are required for the certificate:

Computational Linguistics Foundations

Computational linguistics builds on the theory and practice of multiple fields (linguistics, computer science and statistics) to design computer applications that involve the automatic processing of natural language speech or text by machines. This course is intended to reinforce the most important skills from contributing disciplines to prepare you for further study in natural language technology.

Shallow Processing Methods for Natural Language Processing

This course emphasizes techniques that allow you to locate key terms in running text, correlate their relative occurrences, and normalize text for further processing, such as part-of-speech and constituent structure tagging, morphological analysis, named entity recognition, chunk parsing and more.

Deep Processing Methods for Natural Language Processing

Deep linguistic processing aims to extract meaning from natural language text in machine readable form and is useful to applications that require precise understanding of relationships, such as automated customer service response and machine reading for expert systems. It is also essential to the creation of natural language dialogue systems, which allow computers to understand and reply in natural language.

About UW Extension

Learning through UW Extension gives working professionals the quality education that will take your career to the next level, whether you long for a promotion or a shift to a completely new field. All UW Extension programs are designed by UW faculty, industry experts and community leaders. To ensure you receive first-rate instruction, every UW Extension program must be approved by the corresponding University of Washington academic department. UW advisory boards are continually reviewing programs and updating the curriculum to meet the evolving demands of specific fields.

The University of Washington is one of the oldest state-supported institutions of higher education on the West Coast, and one of the preeminent research universities in the world. With nationally ranked academic excellence, facilities, and a diverse student and faculty population, the UW is a leading-edge university with global influence.

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Learn more about the program

For complete details, visit the Web site:

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Attend an information meeting.

Interested in a certificate? You can ask questions and meet instructors and former students at these free meetings. For meeting dates, times and locations, please go to our Web site.

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