

ASACR 9

Office of the President
April 30, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Data Science, in the Department of Computer Science, within the College of Engineering, beginning in the Fall 2019 Semester.

Background: In many areas of study, vast amounts of heterogeneous data are being continuously generated (i.e. Big Data). There is a nationwide shortage of data scientists who are able to analyze and make use of such data. The proposed program leverages the University's strengths in these areas to meet regional and national workforce demand. The proposed two-year interdisciplinary program features core coursework in computer science and statistics/biostatistics. The program is proposed to launch with a single concentration in biomedical informatics with future plans to develop concentrations in other application areas. The Master of Science is being proposed as a non-thesis (Plan B) program with each student completing and defending a project in data science. Initial enrollment of four students growing to 26 students is anticipated.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____