

## **Review of Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics from the Department of Computer and Information Science**

*Documents reviewed:* Certificate proposal and supporting letters

*Summary:* The proposed graduate certificate in bioinformatics is appropriate. Given the demand and the need for expertise in bioinformatics, this program can expect a good enrollment. The curriculum outlined in the proposal is sound. No new expenses are projected and appropriate faculty to execute the program are available in the CIS Department. The suggested courses for the certificate already exist.

*Recommendation:* **Accept without revision**

*Discussion:* This certificate is especially appropriate for IUPUI with the current emphasis in central Indiana on health sciences. The certificate appears to be designed for people who are working locally and could use the program to increase their knowledge base and to assist them in their careers. The certificate meshes with the M. S. degree program of the CIS Department and would allow students to reach a milestone on their way to obtaining an M. S. degree. Overall the certificate program should aid in retaining students in the CIS graduate program.

There are a couple of items that might be addressed at some stage regarding the required courses. For a graduate certificate, is it appropriate to allow credit for an undergraduate course? Biology 322 is listed as a core course. Also is the course list exclusive? There are additional courses in various disciplines that could be given consideration for the Core category. For example, Bio 564 (Molecular Genetics of Development) or Chem 533 (Introductory Biochemistry) could be appropriate. Also Informatics I590 (Information Retrieval Chemical and Life Science Databases) could be considered.

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