The possibility of a Dual PhD degree with CSE as the second degree

It is possible for a Linguistics PhD student to do a Dual PhD with CSE as the second degree. This is a great opportunity for those interested in research that involves a fair bit of computational or acquisition modelling work.

Why bother?
1) For the right student, a dual PhD would greatly enhance the kind of research they can do. In fact, I can imagine that students can bring back and teach the faculty/other students important developments. The job prospects of a graduate student both in academia and in the corporate sector are likely enhanced. This is a win-win for the right student.

Important note: A linguistics student will still have to complete all the requirements for a PhD in Linguistics. The basic requirements listed below are in addition to the Linguistics requirements.

Here are the basic requirements/facts:
1) A PhD student will need to get 15 credits of CSE courses that include 4 different foundational areas.
2) 2 of the student's committee members must be from CSE.
3) One CSE faculty must be a co-chair.
4) The dual enrollment usually needs to happen in the 3rd semester, but earlier/later is possible.
5) [Here is the CSE Graduate Handbook](#). The relevant information is in Section 2.7 (or you can search for "Dual Major")

Some useful information
1) The best course to start with is CSE 840 - the mathematical foundations of ML and AI.
   a) It has a test out, syllabus and slides. If they get 50% they can take 840 with other CSE courses; otherwise, it is best to take it first.
2) The following CSE faculty usually do dual PhDs with other departments/programme, so it is worth looking at their profiles/webpages. (but, other professors might be interested too.)
   a) [Charles Ofria](#)
   b) [Arun Ross](#)
   c) [Jiliang Tang](#)

If a student is interested
1) They should talk to their advisor first.
2) Reach out to the LIN DGS and perhaps then the CSE DGS ([Sandeep Kulkarni](#) as of 2025 January) to talk more about the possibility and the kind of research that might be acceptable.
3) It would also help to look at previous dual PhD dissertations to see the kind of computational work CSE would accept. The CSE DGS should be helpful in this regard.