

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, June 8, 2012

DECISION ITEM A: **Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action**

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve by consent the following degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item:

- Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience to be offered by Purdue University through the IUPUI campus
- Bachelor of Arts in Medical Humanities and Health Studies to be offered by Indiana University through Its IUPUI campus

Background

At its August and September 2004 meetings, the Commission for Higher Education began implementing a new policy on new academic degree programs on which staff proposes expedited action. These programs meet the criteria identified in that policy and are hereby presented for action by consent, in accordance with the aforementioned policy and the information presented in the supporting documents.

Supporting Documents

- (1) *Background Information on Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action, May 25, 2012*
- (2) *Policy for New Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action, September 2, 2004*

Background Information on Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action

May 25, 2012

CHE 11-29 Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience to be offered by Purdue University through the IUPUI campus

Proposal received on: July 15, 2011
CIP Code: Federal – 261501; State – 261501
Projected Annual Headcount: 88; FTEs: 74; Degrees: 18
New State Funds Requested, Actual:
Year 1: \$ 0
Year 2: \$ 0
Year 3: \$ 0
Year 4: \$ 0
Year 5: \$ 0

The B.S. Neuroscience was submitted with a curriculum that totaled 124 semester hours of credit. However, the curriculum has already been adjusted to 120 credits.

Similar Programs in the Public Sector:

There is only one degree program that is similar to the one proposed – the B.S. in Neuroscience at IU Bloomington, which the Commission approved in September 2006; enrollment and graduation data for this program appear below:

	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Degrees Conferred</u>
FY2009	105	104	17
FY2010	173	172	34
FY2011	224	222	60

At Purdue University West Lafayette, students can earn a B.S. in Psychology with a concentration in Behavioral Neuroscience, but not a separate degree in this field.

Evidence of Employer Demand for the Program:

This program is designed to prepare students to pursue graduate and professional degrees, many of which will be in health related fields. It is estimated that a substantial majority of the graduates will pursue these degrees. These estimates are consistent with evidence from IU Bloomington and from a Neuroscience concentration that the campus put in place several years ago.

Ten students are currently enrolled in this IUPUI concentration and seven have already completed it. Of the seven completers, all but one are currently enrolled in, have completed, or are applying to graduate school. One student is currently employed as a laboratory technician at the IU School of Medicine.

Articulation Agreements

IUPUI has developed an articulation agreement with Ivy Tech for its A.A. in Liberal Arts.

CHE 12-06 Bachelor of Arts in Medical Humanities and Health Studies to be offered by Indiana University through its IUPUI campus

Proposal received on: February 29, 2012
CIP Code: Federal – 340199; State – 340199
Projected Annual Headcount: 52; FTEs: 42; Degrees: 10
New State Funds Requested, Actual:

Year 1: \$ 0
Year 2: \$ 0
Year 3: \$ 0
Year 4: \$ 0
Year 5: \$ 0

The B.S. Medical Humanities and Health Studies was originally submitted with a curriculum that totaled 122 semester hours of credit. However, the University has guaranteed the Commission that the initial class of students admitted into the program will be admitted into a 120 semester-hour curriculum. The final decision about how to reduce the curriculum by two semester hours has not yet been made.

This interdisciplinary degree is consistent with and draws upon the unique mission and strengths of the IUPUI campus and its Medical Center.

Similar Programs in the Public Sector:

None

Evidence of Employer Demand for the Program:

This program is designed to prepare students to pursue graduate and professional degrees, many of which will be in social science and humanities fields that have health-related subfields, e.g. Medical Sociology, Medical Anthropology, Health Communications, and Bioethics. It is estimated that a substantial majority of the graduates will pursue these degrees.

Articulation Agreements

There is no closely related associate degree program for the proposed program. However, the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts, through which this program is offered, has eight articulation agreements that can be used as a basis for allowing a significant amount of transfer of credit.

Policy for New Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action

September 2, 2004

Pursuant to the Commission's desire to expedite action on new academic degree program requests whenever possible, the staff has identified a set of factors, which though not exhaustive, suggest when a request might be considered for expedited action by consent and when a request would require Commission consideration prior to action. With respect to the latter, the presence of one or more of the following factors might suggest a significant policy issue for which Commission attention is needed before action can be taken:

- Consistency with the mission of the campus or institution
- Transfer of credit
- New program area
- New degree level for a campus
- Accreditation
- Unnecessary duplication of resources
- Significant investment of state resources

In the absence of these factors or an objection from another institution, Commission staff will propose expedited action on new program requests. Examples of situations that pose no policy issues for the Commission include, but are not limited to:

- Adding a second degree designation to an existing program (e.g. A.S. to an A.A.S.)
- Delivering an on-campus program to an off-campus site through faculty available on-site or traveling to the site
- Adding a degree elsewhere in a multi-campus system to a new campus within the system.

All requests to offer new academic degree programs must continue to be accompanied by a full program proposal, unless otherwise specified in the guidelines. It is only after a proposal is received that a determination will be suggested as to how the request might be handled.