

Contact: Anthony Girardi

PROPOSED CURRICULUM CHANGES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Recommend that the Board approve the University of Northern Iowa's proposed curriculum revisions.

Executive Summary: The University of Northern Iowa requests approval of proposed revisions to its 2006-08 catalog. The request includes 94 courses to be added to the curriculum and 143 to be eliminated, for a net decrease of 49 courses. The summary report includes figures for proposed new programs and program terminations. The university's requests for new programs and program terminations are presented to the Education and Student Affairs Committee, however, as separate agenda items.

Background: Curriculum changes represent the Regent universities' continuing response to students' changing educational needs and the scholarly vitality of their faculty. Curricular changes reflect developments in academic disciplines, new demands in various professions and settings, workforce needs, student interests, and faculty expertise.

The university reports that curriculum change at the University of Northern Iowa is an ongoing process of academic program innovation and improvement initiated by faculty. Departmental faculty at UNI use academic program review, student outcomes assessment, and input from such outside sources as professional organizations and accrediting bodies to evaluate programs and propose changes.

Some examples follow of why courses and programs are added or deleted:

- The College of Education reports updated offerings reflect emerging knowledge in various fields.
- The College of Humanities and Fine Arts added a performance art sequence of courses in Art. The college also added a course on Ethics in Communication as a capstone course to the UNI Liberal Arts Core.
- The College of Natural Sciences is proposing five new Professional Science Master degree programs to address specific needs of the Iowa work force.

The table below summarizes curricular changes by college. The university's detailed request is on file in the Board Office.

Summary of UNI Curriculum Changes for the 2006 – 2008 Catalog

College	Proposed New Majors	Proposed Deleted Majors	New Courses	Deleted Courses	Net Result on Active Courses
Business			5	5	0
Education			12	28	-16
Humanities and Fine Arts			25	60	-35
Natural Sciences	6	2	37	18	19
Social and Behavioral Sciences	1	0	15	32	-17
Total	7	2	94	143	-49