

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST FOR A DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:
FROM SCHOOL OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND LEISURE SERVICES TO
SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY, ALLIED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to change the name of the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services to the School of Kinesiology Allied Health and Human Services in the College of Education.

Executive Summary: The proposed department name change will align the school name with its program offerings and be more recognizable. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and effective.”

Background:

- ◆ Description of department. The School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services (HPELS) includes four divisions – Athletic Training; Health Promotion and Education; Physical Education; and Leisure, Youth and Human Services. Each division offers distinct majors and minors with a total enrollment of 1,365 students. HPELS also has an intensive study area in Allied Health, Recreation, and Community Services for the doctoral program. HPELS currently delivers a three-hour Personal Wellness course which is a Liberal Arts requirement for all students.

Division	Undergraduate majors	Undergraduate minors	Graduate majors	Total
Athletic Training	B.A. in Athletic Training (n=128)		M.S. in Athletic Training (n=14)	n=142
Health Promotion and Education	B.A. in Health Promotion (n=87)	Health Education-Teaching Health Promotion (n=113)	M.A. in Health Education (n=18)	N=218
Physical Education	B.A. in Movement and Exercise Science (n=359) B.A. in Physical Education-Teaching (n=126)	Coaching (n=236)	M.A. in Physical Education (n=42)	N=763
Leisure, Youth and Human Services	B.A. in Leisure, Youth and Human Services (n=186)	Leisure, Youth and Human Services (n=28)	M.A. in Leisure, Youth and Human Services (n=28)	242
Total	n=886	n=377	n=102	n=1,365

- ◆ Reason for proposed name change. The current of the school was adopted more than 30 years ago. Since that time, the School has added the Athletic Training Division and a number of new majors. The name of the School does not reflect the diversity of programs nor contemporary terminology.

The proposed name will be inclusive of the divisions and majors and use contemporary terminology that is recognized throughout the College of Education, the University, the professions, and potential students who are exploring majors. The more contemporary and commonly-used name of Kinesiology is descriptive of both physical education teaching and exercise science and provides more visibility and recognition for potential students searching the School website. The Allied Health name is descriptive of the majors and minors in health promotion and education and athletic training. The Human Services name is more descriptive of the type of programs in the division.

- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. The diverse nature of the School of HPELS makes it more difficult to find similar departments in other institutions. However, the department names that house the same type of majors as HPELS use similar terminology. The name Kinesiology is commonly applied to Departments which have degrees in Physical Education Teaching and Exercise Science and is coupled with Health Science, Allied Health when degrees in health are offered.

For example, Texas A&M University has a Department of Health and Kinesiology with majors in Exercise Science, and pre-professional preparation for nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy. The University of North Texas has a Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation. Boise State University has a Department of Kinesiology (in the College of Health Sciences) with majors in Athletic Training, Biomechanics, Exercise Science, Pre-Allied Health, Health Education and Promotion, and Teaching Physical Education. Stephen F. Austin State University has a Department of Kinesiology and Health Science with majors in Physical Education Teaching, Fitness and Human Performance, Health Education and Community Health. At Baylor University, similar programs are in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation in the College of Health and Human Sciences. These examples reflect the diverse nature of where programs are housed in different institutions. It is common for programs in Kinesiology and Exercise Science and Leisure to be housed in Colleges other than Colleges of Education. The proposed name change uses terminology that is consistent with terminology used for similar majors at other universities.

- ◇ Consistency with accreditation requirements. There are no requirements made the School's associations or accrediting bodies regarding department names.
- ◇ Effect on program configuration. There will be no program configuration changes as a result of the School name change.
- ◇ Effect on students. Current students will not be affected other than knowing they are in the School of Kinesiology, Allied Health and Human Services. Information will be sent to current students when the name change becomes effective. The program names will remain the same.
- ◇ Effect on resources. No new resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed School name change. The only costs will be putting the new name on the School's letterhead and envelopes. There should be sufficient lead time to put the new name into the purchasing cycle without incurring additional expense.

- ◇ Proposed name consistent with College mission. The mission of the College of Education is to:
 - ⇒ Prepare educational and human service professionals for a variety of direct service and human leadership roles in school and community settings;
 - ⇒ Support faculty members in the college to conduct applied and basic research in the areas of teaching and learning, human performance, human health promotion, human growth and development, leisure and community services and education policy; and
 - ⇒ Provide service on local, state, regional, national and international levels.

The proposed name change, in particular adding the term “human services,” more accurately aligns the name of the school with the mission of preparing students to work as professionals and leaders in a variety of human services roles, with an emphasis on those professions related to a broad range of health fields. In addition, the name change will allow faculty flexibility to pursue research with breadth and depth in a number of focus areas in the fields explicitly mentioned in the mission statement. Finally, an important component of the mission is to provide service at multiple levels. The name change will enhance the visibility of the school by incorporating more frequently used terminology that is more easily recognized by practitioners and researchers in the field, thereby adding to professional credibility for students and faculty of the school.
- ◇ Effect of name change on workforce. None of the programs are changing; there will be graduates from the same programs as before the School name change. The workforce needs in the state will remain the same.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed School name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University’s General Catalog. The anticipated implementation date is Fall 2016.