

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM**  
**MASTER IN MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by the University of Iowa to establish a new Master in Medical Education Program in the Carver College of Medicine.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed program will provide formal training in education to a community of academic medical faculty who will create and sustain a culture of educational excellence within the College of Medicine, the university, and the medical education community. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education.

**Background:**

- ◇ Impetus for proposed program. In a recent report commissioned for the Association of American Medical College's Institute for Improving Medical Education, the Ad Hoc Committee of Deans noted that "while the nature of medical practice has changed substantially since the 1950s, medical education has not kept pace with those changes." The report called for "preparing and supporting a cadre of teaching faculty who can develop, implement, and evaluate teaching strategies that prepare students and residents to achieve learning objectives that correlate with clinically competent care."
- ◇ Description of program. The proposed program is a master's level program that will require 30 credit hours and will prepare a core of College of Medicine faculty with skills in curriculum development, assessment strategies, and innovative teaching strategies to lead those efforts. It will foster a professional development community that emphasizes the importance of educational scholarship. Graduates will be able to provide evidence-based education programs to their learners and will be able to disseminate their skills to colleagues.
- ◇ Duplication. This program will not duplicate any other program in the state. The University of Northern Iowa Health Education program prepares health educators, not health professions educators. The University of Michigan is developing a concentration in higher education related to medical education and has expressed an interest in collaborating with the University of Iowa on selected courses. There are currently seven other degree programs available in the U.S.
- ◇ Cost. The proposed program is projected to have an average annual new cost of \$148,000 during the next seven years. The financial resources for the proposed program will be obtained through reallocations by the College of Medicine. Existing staff will be reallocated to the proposed program; an additional full-time faculty person will be hired to teach courses and advise students.

- ◇ Need/Demand. The University of Illinois at Chicago, the only CIC<sup>1</sup> institution currently offering a comparable program, reports that they have more demand than they are able to meet. The projected enrollment will be 3-5 graduate students in the first two years with an annual increase to a maximum of 12 by year 5 and beyond. The estimates were determined by a needs assessment of faculty, review of available resources, and demand experienced by similar programs across the country.
- ◇ Quality. Criteria for admission will include satisfactory performance on the MCAT<sup>2</sup>, successful completion of the MD degree, and a letter of support from the individual's department head, if appropriate.
- ◇ Link to Strategic Plan. The proposed program will provide an organized curriculum and infrastructure to College of Medicine faculty, fellows, and residents to support their training needs. It supports the College of Medicine's strategic plan to "provide educational programs that attract top candidates, deliver innovative curriculum, achieve superior outcomes, and lead the field in the development of new models of teaching excellence," and the Board of Regents' strategic plan to "ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students."

Responses to the Board of Regents' program approval questions are on file in the Board Office.

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

<sup>2</sup> Medical College Admission Test.