

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Termination of B.A./B.S. Degree Programs in Health Occupations Education, University of Iowa

**Date:** February 12, 2001

**Recommended Actions:**

1. Approve the closing of admission to the program as of this date.
2. Approve the University of Iowa's request to terminate the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Health Occupations Education.

**Executive Summary:**

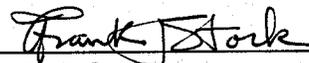
For many years, the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Iowa has granted B.A. and B.S. degrees in Health Occupations Education. An undergraduate program that prepares teachers for employment at the community college level in preparatory health occupations education programs is sponsored and maintained by the College of Education. In June of 2000, the B.A. and B.S. programs in Health Occupations were reviewed. An analysis of current enrollments and projections was developed and the two colleges then evaluated the program, utilizing the University's *Criteria for Institutional Enhancements and Reductions*, "considering quality, centrality, external impact, potential for excellence and cost effectiveness. The conclusion was that these degrees no longer meet the University's criteria for continuance.

Since 1977, fewer than four students each year have graduated with a Health Occupations degree. Currently, there are only seven students enrolled in the major; only three of those have been admitted since 1995. Neither the College of Liberal Arts nor the College of Education places health occupations as a central part of the educational mission (although the College of Liberal Arts does educate many students who wish to pursue advanced professional training in health fields). Over the past 20 years, several new B.A. and B.S. opportunities have been created in the College of Medicine that permit students who have earned certificates, A.A. or A.S. degrees, to continue their education as health educators and these options have decreased the need for the Health Occupations Education degree. It is expected that the decision to end the program will have little, if any, external impact.

Admission to the program will be closed immediately, however, a sunset period will be provided so students who have declared the major in the past may complete the degree. This sunset period will be set for four academic years following the end of the program.

Attached is a report concerning the closure of this program.

  
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Robert J. Barak

Approved:   
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Frank J. Stork

## Summary Document

### Review of the Health Occupations B.A. and B.S. Program

The health occupations education major is an undergraduate program that prepares teachers for employment at the community college level in preparatory health occupations education programs. Admission to the program requires the applicant to have completed a health specialty and be registered, certified, or licensed to practice this specialty. Students complete basic skills and core requirements of the College of Liberal Arts, a 30-hour education major, and course work in an advanced specialization.

In June of 2000 Frederick J. Antczak, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, wrote to the College of Education to ask for a review of the B.A. and B.S. programs in Health Occupations. Although these majors had at one time been an important joint offering of the two Colleges, Dean Antczak suspected that the need for the degree program had diminished.

As part of the College of Liberal Arts' review, Dean Antczak asked Luke Flaherty, the college's Records Officer, to work with the Registrar to develop an analysis of current enrollments and projections for future enrollments in the Program. Associate Dean Richard Shepardson in the College of Education developed information pertinent to the College of Education's participation in the program.

The two colleges then evaluated the program following the University's "Criteria for Institutional Enhancement and Reduction." We considered quality, centrality, external impact, potential for excellence, and cost effectiveness as described below.

The review's conclusion is that these degrees no longer meet the University's criteria for program enhancement or continuance. We therefore end our review with a plan for ending the program.

#### Quality

The Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts are proud of all our programs, and found no fault with the quality of education being offered to students in the Health Occupations B.A. and B.S. program. However, quality cannot flourish without critical mass. We learned that only 78 students have graduated with a Health Occupations Education degree since 1977—fewer than four each year. There are currently only seven students enrolled in the major. Four of these students were admitted before 1995; only three have been admitted since. Students interested in careers in Health Occupations Education are clearly finding other ways to enter the profession.

### **Centrality**

Neither the College of Education nor the College of Liberal Arts places health occupations as a central part of our educational mission, though the College of Liberal Arts does educate many students who wish to pursue advanced professional training in health fields. The program in Health Occupations Education had few links to other programs in the University.

### **External Impact**

Our review also discovered that over the last twenty years several new B.A. and B.S. opportunities have been created in the College of Medicine that permit students who have earned certificates, A.A., or A.S. degrees in various fields to continue their education as health educators. These options have decreased the need for the Health Occupations Education degree through the combined College of Education/Liberal Arts programs, as illustrated by the decline in the number of students (noted above). The College of Education consulted the Education Consultant for the Board of Educational Examiners in the State of Iowa, and learned that the state board now "prefers to receive licensure applications directly at the state department as opposed to receiving a university recommendation." This is not a recent change in policy, and has been reflected in the declining enrollments noted above. *We expect our decision to end the program will have little—if any—external impact.*

### **Potential for Excellence**

It would be inappropriate for the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Education to maintain the Health Occupations Education B.A. and B.S. degrees. There is neither faculty energy nor student interest to sustain this program, and thus there is no potential for excellence.

### **A Plan for Ending the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Health Occupations Education**

We propose to formally close admission to the program as soon as the Regents permit. (Based on current enrollment patterns, we do not expect additional enrollments this fall or in the future.) We propose to provide a "sunset" period for students who have declared the major in the past, permitting them to work with advisers in the College of Education to complete the degree. The sunset period will be set for four academic years following the end of the program (for example, if the program is given permission to end in Fall 2001 the "sunset" for current majors will be December 2005).