

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO CLOSE THE SCOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEARNING CENTER LOCATION, OFFERING A MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Approve the request by the University of Iowa to close the Scott Community College Learning Center location, which offers a Master of Social Work.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

**Description of learning center.** The Scott Community College Learning Center was opened approximately 50 years ago as a part of the University of Iowa Master of Social Work (MSW) program to serve the educational needs of students and the community in the eastern part of the state. At that time UI was the only MSW program serving Iowa, and the demand for qualified social workers necessitated the opening of this educational center. It was originally organized through the Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center, a consortium of 10 universities. When the Graduate Center closed, the program moved to Scott Community College where there was an office and classroom space. Two changes that impacted enrollment in the program were the closing of Marycrest University's BA in Social Work program, which was a "feeder program" for this MSW program location, and the opening of St. Ambrose's MSW program, which led to increased competition for students and practicum sites.

**Reason for proposed closure.** The School of Social Work is formally requesting the permanent closure of this learning center. There has been a decrease in applications to the learning center, while at the same time, the program is expanding the online MSW program due to increased demand. It is anticipated prospects in the region of Scott Community College will apply to the online program.

**Effect on current students.** In the last recruitment effort in spring 2021, 10 students applied to the Scott Community College Learning Center. All 10 students were offered admission, and eight accepted and enrolled in the online program. No students are currently enrolled at the Scott Community College Learning Center.

**Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends.** This program was offered as a 3-year cohort which means it admitted and graduated students every three years.

<b>QC Cohort Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Applied</b>	29	30	29	10*
<b>Accepted</b>	28	27	26	0
<b>New enrolled*</b>	28	13	21	0
<b>Completed</b>	26	11	20	

\*All 10 students were offered admission; two declined, and eight accepted and enrolled in the online program.

**Impact on resources.** Closing this educational learning center will allow School of Social Work staff and faculty to focus on the growth of the online program. Expected cost savings include personnel transportation and facility rental costs.

**Impact on workforce.** As noted earlier, the program does not anticipate a decrease in overall enrollment. The Scott Community College Learning Center operated on a cohort model, admitting a target of 25 students every three years. The program was unable to enroll at the target level during the last cohort. The online program is expanding to enroll at least one section of 25-30 students every year. The demand for master's level social workers is expected to increase in the state of Iowa, particularly as the Iowa population continues to age, and mental health support needs increase.

UI is committed to continued service to the state's social worker needs through the Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City and online programs.

**Alternative programs.** The MSW program is available through the University of Iowa at the Iowa City campus (60 currently enrolled), at the John and Mary Pappajohn Education Learning Center in Des Moines (79 currently enrolled), at Briar Cliff University in the Sioux City Learning Center (8 currently enrolled) and through UI's online program (44 currently enrolled).

Additional MSW programs in Iowa are at the University of Northern Iowa, St. Ambrose University, Clarke College and Grandview University.

**Effective date of closure.** Upon approval by the Board of Regents.