

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO OFFER OFF-CAMPUS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to offer off-campus undergraduate programs at Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD) and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa proposes to offer two undergraduate programs – RN to BSN Completion Program and Bachelor of Applied Studies Program – at EICCD and three undergraduate programs – RN to BSN Completion Program, Bachelor of Social Work Program, and Bachelor of Applied Studies Program – at DMACC. These programs, which reflect ongoing discussions with the two community colleges, will expand career opportunities for place-bound students. By providing quality distance learning experiences, these programs will allow community college graduates to complete a baccalaureate program at a convenient location. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objectives (1.0) to “ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students” (1.1) to “offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students.”

Background:

◇ Description of programs.

- *RN to BSN Completion Program.* Delivered largely on-line, this program is for associate degree and diploma-prepared RNs who are seeking to expand their nursing skills and professional potential by earning the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- *Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Program.* This program prepares students to enter professional social work practice in public and private social services in home and community-based settings, such as public welfare, child welfare, health, mental health, elderly services, and corrections.
- *Bachelor of Applied Studies Program.* This interdisciplinary program is designed for graduates of community college technical programs seeking to complete a bachelor's degree but who cannot engage in traditional on-campus study. The program reflects students' interests and allows students to incorporate certificate programs into their studies, including the Certificate in Public Health; Certificate in Entrepreneurial Management; and the Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

- ◇ Relationship to existing programs at SUI. All of the programs proposed to be offered at the two community colleges are existing programs currently being offered by the University. Both the RN to BSN Completion Program and the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Program are accredited by their respective accrediting bodies; the RN to BSN Completion Program is also approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing. Offering these programs on a community college campus will not have a negative effect on their accreditation status.

- ◇ Duplication. Other colleges and universities in Iowa offer an RN to BSN Completion Program; however, the University of Iowa is the only public university in Iowa to offer the program. This cooperative venture with EICCD and DMACC will combine multiple delivery methods and will provide the convenience of on-line coursework with faculty student contact in on-site and blended instruction.

Other colleges and universities in Iowa offer a traditional Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Program but not a completion program; furthermore, there is no a BASW program in the Des Moines area. This program will articulate with DMACC's Human Services Program and will provide an educational career ladder for the two-year associate degree graduates.

The Bachelor of Applied Studies Program is offered by other colleges and universities in Iowa. However, the emphasis of the program offered by the University of Iowa is developing entrepreneurial and communication skills complemented by a basic understanding of economics. The ability to deliver on-site, on-line, and blended instruction provides a high-tech and high-touch approach.

- ◇ Demand for programs. DMACC has graduated 655 associate degree nurses in the last seven years and an additional 107 in its advanced standing program. EICCD has graduated 265 associate degree nurses in the last three years. In addition to these graduates, graduates from other community colleges with similar degrees are employed in the Des Moines and Quad Cities areas. Access to promotions and higher salaries are available to graduates of the baccalaureate degree program.

The Bachelor of Applied Studies program was designed as an upper division degree completion program for place-bound associate degree graduates. Data from the Iowa Department of Education indicate that, for the last fiscal year, 958 associate in science degrees and 4,456 associate in applied science degrees were awarded.

The DMACC Human Services program has graduated 45 students in the past three years. Interest in the program is expected to be generated by these graduates and others interested in obtaining a baccalaureate degree in social work.

- ◇ Delivery methods. A combination of face-to-face, on-line, and blended instruction will be provided to students; students will also have live interaction with faculty and advisors. Face-to-face classes will be offered at the community college facilities.

- ◇ Required resources. University of Iowa faculty, experienced in the use of course management and delivery software, will deliver the instruction. A traditional "smart" classroom and a repurposed ICN room which will allow the use of interactive software, such as Adobe Connect Professional, will be required on the community college campuses. If ICN facilities are not available, a classroom with a projector, cameras, and microphones, will be required.

- ◇ Cost. The costs required to offer the three programs at DMACC are expected to be approximately \$185,000 during Year 1 and approximately \$181,000 during Year 7. The costs required to offer the two programs at EICCD are expected to be approximately \$63,000 during Year 1 and approximately \$59,000 during Year 7. A significant portion of the costs are based on expenditures necessary to offer on-site delivery, especially in the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Program.

- ◇ Anticipated enrollment. The University of Iowa anticipates that there will be 25 students in each of the RN to BSN Completion Programs and the Bachelor of Applied Studies Programs during Year 1, increasing to 50 students by Year 7. The projected enrollment for the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work is 20 students during Year 1, increasing to 40 students during Year 7.
- ◇ North Central Association accreditation. The University of Iowa's institutional accreditation includes off-campus program offerings unless more than 50% of the program is offered as face-to-face instruction at an off-campus location. This is not expected to occur at the two community college campuses. The University will comply with North Central Association accreditation requirements when the proportion of face-to-face instruction delivered warrants an accreditation change.
- ◇ Link to Strategic Plan. The proposed request addresses SUI's mission "to share knowledge through outstanding undergraduate programs and to increase interdisciplinary learning opportunities."
- ◇ Date of change. The University of Iowa anticipates offering the five programs on the community college campuses in Fall 2009.