

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE DOCTOR OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AT THE
UNIVERSITY NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Doctor of Industrial Technology in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

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

Background:

Description of program. The Doctor of Industrial Technology (DIT) degree program is intended to prepare and develop individuals for careers in teaching and leadership in institutions of higher education, and educational organizations. It is a terminal degree following a master's degree and based within the discipline of technology. The development of career competencies is accomplished through course requirements, internships, research activities, seminars, writing/communication experiences, and a dissertation which is a significant research effort by the doctoral candidate.

Reason for proposed termination. The decision to terminate the DIT is based on enrollment. Enrollment in the program has consistently declined over the last few years and there is insufficient demand to continue the program. The department does not have sufficient resources to continue offering an under-enrolled program. All faculty are at capacity with undergraduate and master's level teaching loads. The program has been suspended since 2018 and, following a review, the decision was made to terminate the program.

Effect on current students. There are currently five students enrolled in the DIT program from prior to when it was suspended that are working toward the completion of their degrees. In 2018 each student was contacted by their advisor and worked on a plan for completion. This effort assisted the department in scheduling needed course work for subsequent semesters and provided the students with a push toward finishing. The department has a developed teach-out plan and is confident each student will have the opportunity to finish their degree.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
2020	0	5	1
2019	0	7	2
2018	1	8	1
2017	4	11	1
2016	2	13	2

Impact on resources. There will be minimal cost impact at this time because most resources were redirected to other programs following the 2018 suspension. Resource limitations, primarily faculty time, were a primary reason for ending the program and those efforts are now largely focused on undergraduate and master's programs which remain healthy. This has been especially important as the total number of faculty in the department has declined. Some limited resources are still needed to graduate the remaining few students, but that time is largely focused on supervising dissertation requirements and, as the final students matriculate through the program, the remaining resources will be refocused on other programs.

A reduction in faculty and staff is not anticipated directly from the closure of this program. Staff reductions have already taken place over the past few years as enrollments declined and existing staff time has been refocused on other programs. Existing facilities are still needed for the undergraduate and master's programs.

Impact on workforce. This termination should have no impact on the workforce needs of the state.

Alternative programs. There are no other similar programs in the state or elsewhere in the nation. Other opportunities do exist at the Ph.D. level in engineering in the state of Iowa.

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board of Regents.