

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST FOR A MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to establish a new Master of Science program in Clinical Investigation.

Executive Summary: The proposed program will provide a structured curriculum in research methodology and mentored research experience and will be an interdisciplinary training program in patient-oriented clinical research for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals.

Details on the Proposed Program:

- The proposed program is a master's level program that will require 30 credit hours and may be completed in two years. The training will focus on the developmental needs of clinical investigators and includes epidemiology and study design; biostatistics; clinical research ethics; and critical review and scientific writing.
- The proposed program will be offered by the Department of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health in collaboration with the Carver College of Medicine.
- None of the degree programs currently available at SUI address the training needs of health professionals in patient-oriented clinical research, as outlined by the National Institutes of Health, Institute of Medicine, and Association of American Medical Colleges.
- A non-degree program, Iowa Scholars in Clinical Investigation Program supported by the Carver College of Medicine and an NIH K30 Clinical Research Curriculum Award, has enrolled 42 scholars since 2001. In collaboration with the College of Public Health, the core content of this program includes principles of epidemiology and biostatistics, as well as more specialized training in research ethics and clinical epidemiology.
- Required and elective courses in the proposed program curriculum include existing courses or courses that will be developed irrespective of the new program; the required and elected courses will be taught by existing faculty with expertise in the subject areas.
- No new program resources for faculty or other program components will be required. Existing staff will be reallocated to the proposed program.
- The proposed program will provide an organized curriculum and infrastructure to health professionals from the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Public Health to support their training needs.
- This program will not duplicate any other program in the state. The University of Iowa will be the only institution in the state to offer an interdisciplinary training program in clinical research for physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, and other health professionals.

- The projected enrollment for this program is expected to be eight students during the first year; the enrollment is projected to increase to 20 students by the fifth year, with a maximum cap of 30 students. These estimates were based on the average annual number of trainees entering the Iowa Scholars in Clinical Investigation Program and the number of health professionals currently enrolled as non-degree students in graduate level clinical research courses.
- The proposed program supports the College of Medicine's strategic plan to "adopt a collegiate plan to support the future of patient-oriented research by the College's faculty in cooperation with the UIHC" and the Board of Regents' strategic plan to "ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students."
- Health professionals have requested focused training in clinical research methods and academic skills. Prospective employers have expressed an expectation for clinical researchers to have formal training in clinical research methods as demonstrated by a graduate degree.
- This proposal has been reviewed by the Council of Provosts and the Board Office. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. The Council of Provosts and the Board Office recommend approval of this program.
- Responses to the Board of Regents' program approval questions are on file in the Board Office.