

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:  
MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN EXERCISE SCIENCE TO MASTER OF SCIENCE  
PROGRAM IN HEALTH AND HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Master of Science Program in Exercise Science to the Master of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology in the Department of Health and Human Physiology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed name change will align the program name with the department name which resulted from a major reorganization in June 2010. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and effective.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Master of Science Program in Exercise Science is limited to the focus area in athletic training. The program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate credit, intended to provide advanced study in clinical education and research for certified athletic trainers. Its focus is on a health care team approach to sports medicine, medical care management, wellness, pediatric/adolescent health, and special health promotions. There is emphasis on the application of established research findings to the wide variety of problems encountered in everyday practice. The program with thesis is designed for students interested in pursuing an academic career.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed name change.** Prior to June 2010, the administrative home of the Master of Science Program in Exercise Science was the Department of Integrative Physiology. In June 2010, the Board of Regents approved renaming the department as the Department of Health and Human Physiology (Agenda Item #4h). At that time, the undergraduate program also changed its name; however, the graduate programs did not change their names to be consistent with the department name change. The proposed renaming will align the program with the department name, avoid overlap with existing graduate programs, and best reflect the educational mission of the department in the areas of health promotion and human physiology. The department’s educational programs will be better integrated across all levels. This integration is expected to improve placement of program graduates and reduce attrition of students.
- ◇ **Comparable name at other institutions.** There is no institution that offers a program with exactly the same name. The University of Iowa program will be unique and innovative in its integrated emphasis on physiological and behavioral aspects of human health. Some institutions have department names and graduate degrees with some similarities, including the University of Florida and Texas A & M University (Health and Human Performance) and the University of Oregon, Boston University, and Gonzaga University (Human Physiology). Other institutions may modify program names and curricula in the future to reflect the changes and growth occurring in the health science area.

- ◇ Consistency with accreditation requirements. Currently, only entry-level athletic training educational programs are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The University's undergraduate program in Health and Human Physiology with focus on athletic training has been accredited by CAATE; the name of the undergraduate program is consistent with accreditation designations. If the accrediting agency encourages accreditation at the master's level in the future, the proposed name will be consistent with the accreditation designations.

Most students who complete the proposed Master of Science Program in Health and Human Physiology with a focus on clinical exercise physiology will strive for professional certification from the American College of Sports Medicine in such areas as Clinical Exercise Specialist or Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist. The proposed name will be consistent with the organization's designations.

- ◇ Effect on program configuration. The undergraduate program in Health and Human Physiology with a focus on athletic training is a successful program which has been accredited continuously by CAATE since 1974. The Master of Science Program in Exercise Science with a focus on athletic training is a well-established program whose graduates have all become certified athletic trainers. However, there is increased student interest and faculty expertise in the areas of clinical exercise physiology and health promotion. The Department will restructure the program to streamline the program and to better reflect the expertise of the faculty. The Department will accomplish this by making the athletic training focus area an official subtrack and adding a subtrack focused on clinical exercise physiology. No changes will be made to the number of required credit hours or the configuration of the program with focus in athletic training as a subtrack.

Students who want to focus on clinical exercise physiology through the subtrack will be required to complete a minimum of 32 semester hours. Internships in such areas as cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation, diabetes prevention and management, fitness evaluation, noninvasive cardiovascular testing, health maintenance, and health education, are important components of the curriculum. Students interested in an academic career may earn the Master of Science Degree in Health and Human Physiology after completing 30 semester hours, including a thesis. They may focus their studies on health promotion or human physiology.

- ◇ Effect on students. Current students who have already declared the Master of Science Program in Exercise Science with a focus in athletic training as their degree objective will not be affected by the proposed name change. Student will have a choice to keep the current name on their transcript and diploma or change to the proposed name. All current students will be able to complete their declared program of study with focus in athletic training as outlined in the 2010-2011 General Catalog. Current students who elect to switch to the subtrack focused on clinical exercise physiology will need to follow the curriculum requirements for that focus area.
- ◇ Effect on resources. Minimal costs will be incurred related to changing the name on printed materials. No new faculty, staff, or facilities will be required as a result of the proposed name change.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's General Catalog.