

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS IN HEALTH EDUCATION AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Master of Arts in Health Education in the College of Education.

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

**Background:**

Description of program. The Master of Arts (MA) program in Health Education offers three tracks: School Health, Community Health Education and Fitness Management.

Reason for proposed termination. The termination is really a merging of two MA programs into one. The new program will be called “Community Health and Recreation”. This MA degree will combine the best elements of each program into a degree that best suits graduate students who would like to work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the fields that include health care, community parks and recreation, and youth work.

Five-year trend in enrollments and graduations.

	# of Health Education (MA) applications	# of Health Education (MA) graduates
2013-2014	13	7
2014-2015	18	6
2015-2016	6	14
2016-2017	6	13
2017-2018	10	4

Effect on current students. The eight students currently admitted to the Health Ed MA program will be able to finish their program of study, all of whom should graduate within two years. All but one of the classes associated with the current Health Ed MA program will continue to be taught and a suitable substitution has been identified for the few students who will still need that course.

Impact on resources. Termination of the Health Ed MA is part of a larger proposal in developing a combined MA with the Leisure program. Small cost savings will be realized from the combined MA program through a removal of one course and streamlined advising efforts.

Impact on workforce. There is anecdotal evidence and personal testimonials from health ed professionals that they can impact their marketability and effectiveness by incorporating leisure/rec elements into their training. The termination of the Health Ed MA program and proposed Community Health and Recreation MA program improves the learning opportunities that students will use in the field. These are areas of growth. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field for health educators will grow by 16% between 2016 and 2026 (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm>) and 9% for those in recreation (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/recreation-workers.htm>).

Alternative programs. There are no similar programs in Iowa.

Effective date of termination. August 2019.