Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Committee Action Requested: Recommend to the Board approval of the request to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

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

Description of the program: The gerontology major stands out as the only bachelor-level program of its kind in Iowa, offering two distinct tracks: Social sciences and long-term care administration. This interdisciplinary program draws from psychology, sociology, public health and business. It prepares students for leadership roles in aging services, healthcare administration and policy development. Students benefit from specialized courses in aging and health, dementia care and long-term care management, as well as internships that provide immersive learning experiences.

Reason for proposed termination: The program is being consolidated into the family and lifespan development major with concentration areas in aging studies or long-term care administration. In response to the Iowa Board of Regents Workforce Alignment Review analysis and report, and given the limited student demand, UNI proposes eliminating gerontology as a major.

Effect on current students: Current applicants and students will be allowed to complete the current program or switch to the new family and lifespan development major with a concentration in aging studies or long-term care administration.

Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Majors	19	20	17	20	20
Graduates	11	8	8	5	8

Impact on resources: This change is meant to pursue efficiencies in course offerings and to create clarity in pathways for students. By consolidating family studies and gerontology (including long-term care administration) together as family and lifespan development, costs related to instruction, marketing and recruitment, and administrative overhead will decrease (these are the same savings as noted in proposal to change to family and lifespan development, November Board docket item III.E.1).

Instructional Cost Efficiencies: 9 credits of common core that will be shared leading to $24,000 in savings (using the adjunct rate)

Marketing & recruitment streamlining efficiencies: $2,500 in savings

Administrative cost savings: Simplified curriculum, scheduling, streamlined advising and administrative tracking leading to $5,000 in savings

Total Estimated Cost Saving: $31,000

Impact on workforce: Graduates of the family and lifespan development major will continue to serve the state's workforce needs.

Alternative programs: There is no similar bachelor-level gerontology program in the state, but students wishing to pursue gerontology coursework will still be able to do so within the aging studies concentration.

Date of Implementation: August 2027.