

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Establishment of a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training, UNI
Date: March 31, 2003

Recommended Action:

Refer University of Northern Iowa's request to establish a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training to the Board Office and the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) for review and recommendation.

Executive Summary:

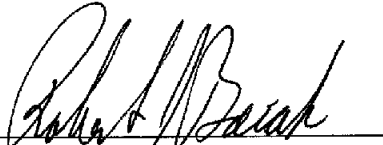
Only M.S. Program in Iowa The University of Northern Iowa requests approval to offer a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training. The M.S. degree will compliment the already existing undergraduate program in Athletic Training at UNI, which currently has an enrollment of 84 students. Over the past four years, 95% of UNI athletic training graduates have left the state to pursue graduate education elsewhere in order to gain advanced training to meet current employment trends in the profession. The new program will allow graduates of UNI's undergraduate program and other undergraduate programs in the State to remain in Iowa for their graduate education.

Three Goals The proposal for the athletic training masters degree is based upon achieving three goals of the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, where the program will be housed:


1. Create a graduate program that will provide graduate level training for certified athletic trainers in the State, many of whom will then fill professional positions in Iowa.
2. Advance the public/private partnership that has been established between the University and the Cedar Valley medical community. In conjunction with this partnership, UNI plans a Human Performance Center to house cooperative athletic training initiatives for the University and the community.
3. Create a graduate program that will prepare athletic training professionals with credentials compatible with current employment trends in the profession.

ICCPHSE Review The program meets the Regent requirements for the establishment of a new program. The Program has not yet completed review by the ICCPHSE. That review will be completed April 3, 2003. If any concerns are raised in that process, they will be reported to the Board.

New Program Review Questions The University's responses to the Board of Regents New Program Review Questions are attached to this memorandum.



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 

Gregory S. Nichols

Regents New Program Review Questions

DEPT/SCHOOL: Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services

COLLEGE: Education

DEGREE: Masters of Science

MAJOR IN: Athletic Training

1. Need

- a. How will this proposed program further the educational and curriculum needs of the students in this discipline?

There are two primary reasons that we are proposing the athletic training master's degree at the University of Northern Iowa. First, current employment trends in the profession of athletic training favor those with a graduate degree in athletic training or a related field. Presently there are no athletic training graduate programs in the state of Iowa. Undergraduate students at UNI and other state institutions who wish to pursue a graduate degree in athletic training must leave the state to do so. We have observed that students that leave the state usually do not return to practice as a certified athletic trainer.

Our second purpose for offering the graduate degree in athletic training is to support a public-private partnership with the medical community in the Cedar Valley. This partnership will support our undergraduate and graduate athletic training programs by increasing the number of field experience sites for our students, providing them with a richer experiential learning component during their studies.

- b. How does it further the educational and curriculum needs of other units in the college or university?

The proposed M.S. degree in Athletic Training compliments already existing programs in UNI's School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services. In conjunction with this program, UNI will build a Human Performance Center to house the program and related programs, projects and activities. Funding for the building is the result of grants, foundation giving, and the development of a community partnership with Cedar Valley Medical Specialists, PC., Covenant Health System, Inc. and Allen Health Systems, Inc. The emerging partnership with the Cedar Valley Medical community requires the establishment of a graduate program to honor our commitment to establish an athletic training network where NATABOC certified graduate students will serve as primary caregivers within the network. Thus the program will meet community needs as a result of the emerging partnership. Other academic programs will benefit from this arrangement, as it will serve as a model program that can be reproduced in other areas within the University that could benefit from field-based clinical experiences.

2. Relationship to other programs

- a. What programs in this field of study are available in other colleges and universities in Iowa?

Presently there are no graduate degree programs in athletic training in the state of Iowa.

- b. With what representatives of these programs have you consulted in developing this proposal? Provide a summary of the reactions of each institution consulted.

Athletic training program representatives at both Iowa State and the University of Iowa were consulted. Program representatives from both institutions have expressed support and were enthusiastic about availability of the program for their graduates.

- c. In what ways is this proposed program similar to those mentioned above? In what ways is it different or does it have a different emphasis?

N/A

- d. How does the proposed program supplement the current programs available?

The proposed program builds upon graduate education within the School of HPELS. This program is unique and will only add to the quality of graduate programs at UNI. As indicated in item 1b, the proposed program will serve as a model for developing a partnership with community resources to enhance field base and clinical educational experiences. The partnership currently being developed requires the establishment of a master's degree in order to provide services by NATABOC certified athletic trainers. The community benefits from the services provided by these graduate students. Students benefit from exposure to broader clinical settings. The masters degree program is a logical extension of the undergraduate program in athletic training. 100% of recent graduates from UNI's undergraduate athletic training program have secured professional positions or were admitted to graduate study in physical therapy, exercise science, medicine, chiropractic medicine, sports administration, biomechanics, and teaching.

- e. Has the possibility of some kind of interinstitutional program or other cooperative effort been explored? What are the results of this study?

Yes, the two regent institutions have been consulted. Both are supportive and look forward to referring their graduates to the program for advanced education.

3. Estimate the enrollment in this program for the next five years.

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
a. Undergraduate:					
Majors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Non-majors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Graduate:					
Majors	<u> 05 </u>	<u> 10 </u>	<u> 15 </u>	<u> 15 </u>	<u> 15 </u>
Non-majors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

c. On what basis were these estimates made?

Estimates are based on current enrollment and interest in the undergraduate program, employment trends within the athletic training field, and the fact that there are no other graduate programs in the state.

d. What are the anticipated sources of these students?

Sources include UNI's own undergraduate program and other Iowa colleges and Universities, as well as other mid-west undergraduate athletic training programs.

4. Provide any available data or information on employment opportunities available to graduates of this program in Iowa and nationally.

Over the past five years the University of Northern Iowa Athletic Training Program has had 100% placement of bachelor's degree graduates in either professional positions or graduate school. Although there is not any published data as to the need of athletic training graduates, we have observed that certified athletic trainers are in high demand. When conferring with the other regent schools we found that they too have had 100% placements for the past five years. Graduate students have gone on to work in clinical, high school, collegiate, professional, hospital, and industrial settings. We expect a 100% placement rate each year.

5. Are there accreditation standards for this program?

a. What is the accreditation organization?

A program of voluntary accreditation for graduate degrees in athletic training is available through the National Athletic Trainers Association. It is our intention to seek accreditation for this program at the date specified in 5b. UNI's existing undergraduate program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

b. What accreditation timetable is anticipated?

We will be seeking accreditation by 2005.

6. Does the proposed program meet minimal national standards for the program, e.g., Council of Graduate Schools or other such bodies?

Yes

7. Report any reactions of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education.

None

8. List the Iowa institutions in which articulation agreements are being developed for the proposed program.

N/A

9. Additional Resource Needs

a. Estimate the probable marginal increases in expenditures that may be necessary as a result of the adoption of this program for the next three years. [Note: for new space needs (item f), estimate the amount and cost of new and/or remodeled space]

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
(1) Faculty	\$45,000		
(2) Graduate Assistants			
(3) General Expense			
(4) Equipment	\$5,000		
(5) Library Resources			
(6) New Space Needs			
(7) Computer Use	\$1,400		
(8) Other (specify)			
TOTAL COST	\$51,400		

b. Describe the nature of and justification for the additional resource needs.

The additional resources needed are directly related to hiring one additional tenure track faculty member in the Division of Athletic Training.

c. How is it anticipated that the additional resource needs will be provided? [For programs planning to use external grants, what would be the effect of the grant termination?]

A request was submitted to the Dean of the College of Education. We have since been granted a tenure track line and have hired an additional faculty member for the upcoming year.

As was stated earlier, UNI will build a Human Performance Center to house the program and related programs, projects and activities. Funding for the HPC is the result of grants, foundation giving, and the development of a community partnership with Cedar Valley Medical Specialists, PC., Covenant Health System, Inc. and Allen Health Systems, Inc. This emerging partnership with the Cedar Valley Medical community is expected to continue to bring resources to the program as the partnership develops further.