

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Establishment of a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training, UNI
Date: June 9, 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:

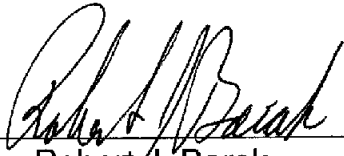
Only M.S. Program in Iowa The University of Northern Iowa requests approval to offer a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training. The M.S. degree will compliment the already existing undergraduate program in Athletic Training at UNI, which currently has an enrollment of 84 students. Over the past 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 current Regent requirements for the establishment of a new program. The Program has successfully completed review by the ICCPHSE.

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 PROGRAM REVIEW QUESTIONS

University of Northern Iowa

College of Education
School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services

DEGREE: Master of Science

MAJOR IN: Athletic Training

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

Current employment trends in the profession favor those with graduate degrees in Athletic Training. There is currently no graduate program in Athletic Training available in Iowa. Students wishing to pursue an advanced degree in this discipline (which is often required for entry level professional employment) must leave the state. We have observed that students that leave the state usually do not return to practice in Iowa.

UNI's proposed Master of Science degree in Athletic Training is a logical extension of the undergraduate Athletic Training program approved by the Board of Regents in 2000. The undergraduate program has grown rapidly and currently enrolls 84 students. In addition, the program supports the University of Northern Iowa's efforts already underway to develop one of the few prominent athletic training program in the country. The School of HPELS already employs five tenure-track faculty with doctoral degrees who are professionally certified in athletic training. Very few programs in the U.S. (Indiana State University, Brigham Young University) have dedicated this number of faculty to focus on this discipline.

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

The program is consistent with UNI's historical mission in the preparation of individuals working primarily in educational settings. Programs in physical education, health and recreation at the University of Northern Iowa trace their roots to the founding of a Department of Physical Culture in 1896. UNI's "Gymnasium" built in 1903, was the first complex of this type west of the Mississippi River. For over 100 years the department has been preparing physical educators, coaches, health educators, and recreation and leisure professionals. The prevention and treatment of sport injuries has evolved as an important part of a contemporary, integrated and holistic education for sport, fitness and leisure professionals. The proposed program compliments other longstanding leadership development and graduate programs in the College of Education including programs which prepare leaders for K-12 education.

Faculty in the School of HPELS have ongoing valuable partnerships in the community with schools, youth-sport associations, city and county service providers, community park and recreation departments and other providers that support experiential learning opportunities for students and enhance sport, leisure and health promotion for all. The proposed Human Performance Center compliments the partnership tradition and will provide enhanced space for the athletic training academic program and other outreach efforts of the School, as well as services to be provided to university athletic programs. These initiatives will be enhanced with the addition of the M.S. program in Athletic Training. The proposed program will assist our efforts at building additional community partnerships and extend our public service effort in an effective way in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls community and in Northeast Iowa.

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

Presently there are no graduate degree programs specifically in athletic training in the state of Iowa. The University of Iowa offers an athletic training emphasis within their exercise science graduate program.

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

Dr. Dan Foster, Athletic Training Program Director at the University of Iowa, was consulted in regard to our proposal. He stated:

“I am in support of your proposal to develop an accredited MS Degree in Athletic Training. Obviously, you have developed a standout undergraduate program. Because there are no accredited graduate programs in Iowa, and because three undergraduate programs and many more will soon exist, it would benefit the state to offer such a program.”

Dr. Jerry R. Thomas, Chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance at Iowa State University also responded and stated:

“The development of the program appears well done and logical. There is also a need for the program in Iowa. Based on all these factors, we support the approval of this program by the Iowa Board of Regents.”

Ms. Mary Meier, Athletic Training Program Director at Iowa State University, was also consulted. She stated:

“Please consider this email a sign of Iowa State University’s acceptance of your proposed new Master’s Degree in Athletic Training. It will be a good program to have in the state of Iowa and will give students graduating from Iowa State University a place to pursue advanced knowledge, experience and research in athletic training.”

5. 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?

The proposed Athletic Training Masters Degree at the University of Northern Iowa differs from the athletic training emphasis at the University of Iowa. The primary difference is the focus of the two programs. The program at the University of Iowa focuses upon exercise science but allows students to take three courses in an emphasis area of athletic training. The M.S. Athletic Training proposal has athletic training as its only focus and offers seven courses in athletic training with additional elective courses in exercise science. The M.S. program at the University of Northern Iowa is primarily for the advancement of knowledge and the professional preparation of certified athletic trainers.

6. How does the proposed program supplement the current programs available?

The proposed Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training builds upon the strong undergraduate and graduate education programs currently offered by the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services. The program will add to the quality of graduate programs within the College of Education consistent with our mission of preparing educators for school and non-school settings and focused on improving education and human services.

The proposed program will serve as a model for developing partnerships, aimed at enhancing university/community services and relationships. Support for field-based opportunities will be greatly enhanced in establishing a partnership with intercollegiate athletics programs in high schools, youth-sport associations, community park, recreation departments and other providers. The program involves the establishment of a community network that will both provide experiential learning for students while also enhancing the quality and quantity of athletic training services available to the aforementioned groups.

Currently offered undergraduate programs do not adequately meet the growing demand in athletic training. This graduate program will provide an effective mechanism to help address the critical need for athletic training professionals in all sport, athletic and fitness programs at all levels for all ages.

7. 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 we look forward to continued cooperation.

8. 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	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

9. On what basis were these estimates made?

Estimates are based on current undergraduate enrollment and expressed interest in graduate work by current undergraduates, employment trends within the athletic training field.

10. 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.

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

Since the undergraduate program was established, 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 several 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.

12. Are there accreditation standards for this program?

Yes

a. What is the accreditation organization?

The National Athletic Trainers Association

b. What accreditation timetable is anticipated?

We will be seeking accreditation by 2005.

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

Yes

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

None

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

N/A

16. 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) Grad. 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.