

Academic Program Proposals

July 29, 2005

The following is a list of academic program proposals being considered for approval for the July 29, 2005, Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Meeting.

The Institution's Name, Program Title, and Program Summary are listed below. To download a PDF copy of the complete proposal, click on the link below the Program Summary.

If you have concerns, objections, questions or comments concerning a specific proposal, please send them to the contact person listed on the full proposal, as well as to Cynthia Moten at ADHE, no later than **June 15, 2005**.

Also you may download a copy of the ADHE publication "Criteria and Procedures for Preparing Proposals for New Programs".

Download program proposals in Adobe Acrobat PDF (portable document format). If you do not have an Acrobat reader, you can obtain it free of charge from Adobe.

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Arkansas State University--Jonesboro

Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science

Program Summary

The College of Sciences and Mathematics and College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Arkansas State University - Jonesboro proposes to develop a cross-disciplinary Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Science. It is anticipated that the program will have a significantly higher demand than the discipline-specific majors of Chemistry, Biology, and Criminology. This degree is highly appropriate in light of the importance of developing a technically skilled scientifically competent workforce. The proposed B.S. degree is required to support economic development to the state and region through knowledge-based federal, regional, state, and private-sector development arising out of the need for qualified quantitative scientists trained in the fields of science and forensic criminology. This cross-disciplinary program integrates the knowledge and technical skills of several disciplines in the science and techniques related to criminal investigations.

Forensic science plays a critical role in the justice system by providing scientific and foundational information for criminal investigations and the courts. Forensic science - the application of the methods of science to legal matters - is an exciting, complex and cross-disciplinary program of study. In it one employs the principles of chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics, as well as social science theory and law, to help solve crimes and serve justice.

The proposed program is based on the recommendations of the 2004 National Institute of Justice Special Report "Education and Training in Forensic Science: A guide for forensic science laboratories, educational institutions, and students". The BS in Forensic Science will provide students with cross-disciplinary training with emphasis areas in Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Biology. Forensic Chemistry refers to the analytical chemical methods used to analyze controlled substances (e.g., explosives, illegal drugs) as well as the analysis of fibers, glass, soil, paint and other materials. Forensic Biology refers to DNA analysis, serology, biochemical analysis of human tissues, human anatomy including forensic anthropology, and new sub-disciplines such as forensic entomology.

Forensic Science is an applied science that covers an array of disciplines. An undergraduate degree must combine a strong foundation in the natural sciences with extensive laboratory training. As a model undergraduate program, our proposed program will provide a strong science foundation that emphasizes the scientific method and the application of problem-solving skills in both the classroom and laboratory setting. Students in the program will acquire the scientific writing, public speaking, laboratory, and computer skills that prepare them to become forensic science professionals. Through the involvement of faculty and forensic science practitioners our program will provide the networking opportunities the students require ensuring that they gain employment in the field and remain active in the field upon graduation. Students will be exposed to a breadth of forensic science disciplines, will be acculturated into the forensic science and justice communities, and will be trained sufficiently to gain certification upon graduation. All activities within the program will ensure that students gain real-world experience in preparation for practice upon graduation.

Most forensic science employment occurs in a laboratory setting. Results of laboratory analyses are typically used by law enforcement to investigate crimes, identify or eliminate suspects, and assist courts in reaching fair and just determinations. Due to the fundamental importance of analytical results to the criminal justice system, students will be trained in analytical methods, ethics, and legal evidence so that they graduate from the program with strong science backgrounds and a depth of understanding regarding their role and responsibility in the justice system.

Relationship to Institutional Role and Mission

This proposal is an extension of a well-established need for broadly based cross-disciplinary technical training of undergraduate students to meet state, regional and national needs in the coming years. The program is in direct support of the University's mission to educate leaders. The University is continuing to expand its research and teaching capacities. Forensic Science offers a unique cross-disciplinary setting in which to utilize the interdisciplinary research strengths of University faculty and develop new and exciting educational opportunities for our students. Given the increased need for trained scientists in Arkansas and nationally it is clear that degree programs at the Bachelor's level are required to foster interdepartmental and intercollegiate undergraduate student training and research.

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Arkansas State University--Jonesboro

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

Program Summary

This program is intended to be a master's degree that conforms to the nationally accepted standard in the field as indicated by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. The core courses and elective concentrations most closely resemble a mix between the MA programs in criminal justice at Washington State University and SUNY, Albany, the number 6 and number 1 schools in the field respectively. It is intended to 1) develop additional analytical skills for in-service practitioners with a BA/BS in the field or a closely related field; 2) to provide practitioners in this region with access to graduate education in their field in order for them to be more competitive for promotion within state agencies; 3) to provide our undergraduates who wish to pursue a degree regional access to one in their field of choice; and 4) to provide our undergraduate students who are considering a Ph.D. in the field a good foundation for further graduate studies.

Initially there are no new courses and the proposed degree program will employ only existing courses and existing faculty lines. The primary contributors will be from two Departments: 1) Criminology, Sociology and Geography, and 2) Political Science.

There will be no additional costs to the university in regards to faculty, course offering impacts, or staffing. The program will require the normal allocation of graduate assistantships from the graduate school.

Faculty resources are currently sufficient for projected student demand.

Library holdings are currently sufficient to support this degree.

Classrooms and the Statistics and Research Labs are sufficient to support this degree.

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Arkansas State University--Jonesboro

Master of Social Work

Program Summary

Purpose of the Program

The mission statement of Arkansas State University declares that "We pursue and share knowledge within a caring community that prepares students in challenging and diverse ways to become more productive global citizens."

Arkansas State University has always been an institution of and for its people. Since its early days in 1909 in east Arkansas, the university has been dedicated to the needs for service and education for the people around us.

Leslie Wyatt, President Arkansas State University
(Minority Retention Plan, 1999-2000)

Arkansas State University also stresses a focus on regional service as evidenced by the establishment of the Delta Studies Center (See Arkansas State University Board of Trustees Resolution 94-103). This emphasizes the role of ASU as "the leading university in studying, celebrating and developing the Lower Mississippi River Delta" [cited on p. 14 of The Graduate Education in Arkansas: Doctoral and Specialist Degree Programs, June 2000]. Social work as a discipline and as a profession fits comfortably into that mission. "The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to and address problems in living" (NASW Code of Ethics, p.1). The social work profession pursues its mission through a body of knowledge of human behavior in the social environment and skills in facilitating change. It is based on the core values service, social and economic justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relations, integrity and competence (Council on Social Work Education 2001).

A Bachelor in Social Work degree is the minimum requirement to qualify a person for a job as a social worker in Arkansas; however majors in psychology, sociology and other fields are often employed due to the lack of persons with social work training. Although a bachelor's degree is required for entry into the field, an advanced degree in Social Work has become the standard for many positions. Master's degree programs prepare graduates for advanced practice (CSWE, Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards, 2001). The focus is on their chosen field of concentration and further develops skills which may include those required to perform clinical assessments, manage large caseloads, and to explore new ways of drawing upon social services to meet the needs of clients (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000).

Master's level social workers practice in a variety of settings. The primary fields of practice or concentration of study for social workers with master's degrees are: aging/gerontological social work; alcohol, drug or substance abuse; child welfare, community planning, corrections/criminal justice; family services; group services; health; occupational/industrial social work; mental health or community mental health; mental retardation; public assistance/public welfare; rehabilitation; and school social work. Persons holding the MSW are "...the nation's largest providers of mental health and therapy services. Professional social workers are often the only mental health care providers serving residents of many poor, rural counties." (National Association of Social Workers, Social Work Myth Busters).

Graduates of the ASU MSW program will extend the University's commitment to the community, lower Mississippi Delta region, the State of Arkansas, and nation as they provide direct services, manage human services agencies, and promote social justice. A Master's level Social Work degree at Arkansas State University, therefore, complements the University's mission to the community and the region.

The undergraduate Social Work Program at Arkansas State University began in early 1976. It was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in 1979, which made ASU the first state institution in Arkansas to receive that distinction. The program has grown from 90 majors in 1979 to 195 majors in 2001. There have been on-going requests by students, former students, and community leaders for ASU to initiate a master's degree to complement the undergraduate program. As far back as 1988 a feasibility study demonstrated a need for and support of the master's degree in social work (Clowers, 1988).

Background

In 1991, the University of Arkansas Little Rock, conjointly with ASU, offered the MSW on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. In the initial exploratory meeting on the ASU campus 61 students expressed interest in the program. Of that number 25 applied for admission and 18 were accepted. This was a part time program to accommodate the faculty of UALR and the cohort of students. During the 3 years the program was in progress 8 dropped out and 10 graduated. These students attended graduation ceremonies at UALR on their campus. The program became difficult and expensive to manage because of faculty travel and faculty workloads. UALR therefore chose not to continue with a second cohort.

Interest in an MSW at ASU continued. Despite efforts in the 1997 and 1998 academic years by UALR to offer the Advanced Standing Master's in Social Work degree in Jonesboro the UALR administration did not feel that there was a sufficient number of qualified applicants for a part time program to justify the cost of sending faculty to the ASU campus. The idea of a collaborative effort of providing another cohort of the MSW program was dropped and has not been revived.

Admissions Requirements

It is the policy of ASU and the Department of Social Work to assure equal educational opportunity to qualified individuals, without regard to race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, marital or parental status, or sexual orientation. Applicants must demonstrate that they possess the potential for professional development in clinical social work practice. This potential will be demonstrated by documentation of the presence of personal and scholarly characteristics necessary for successful completion of academic course work, successful completion of social work clinical practice, and a commitment to the value base of the social work profession, as described in the NASW Code of Ethics.

More specifically, to be considered for admission to the MSW program students must meet the requirements of the Graduate School at Arkansas State University. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, or a comparable association. There must be evidence of adequate preparation to begin graduate study in social work, including satisfactory completion of broad undergraduate course work in the liberal arts, including, specifically,

course work in each of the following areas: social sciences, humanities, English composition, and mathematics. There must also be an indication of satisfactory completion of course work in human biology and in human cultural perspectives/cultural diversity. Transcripts are reviewed for this purpose by the admissions committee. Students not meeting these liberal arts areas must take relevant courses as preparation.

A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4 point scale is required for admission to the MSW program. All applicants must submit an application and three letters of reference. References should be chosen who can provide valid information on academic abilities, commitment to working with diverse populations, and emotional stability and maturity. If the applicant has completed a degree which includes an experiential component (field placement or internship), one reference letter should come from the applicant's supervisor in that component.

Applicants must also submit a personal statement addressing the following areas. 1. Reasons for choosing the profession of Social Work. 2. Describe experiences where leadership, responsibilities, and/or judgment, were exercised and discuss what was learned from the experience. 3. Describe a social problem of great concern or personal interest. Recommend a course of action for social change. Discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks for the plan. 4. Describe an ethical dilemma you personally experienced. What alternative actions were considered and why. 5. Applicants are asked to tell the admissions committee things they would like them to know about themselves. Official transcripts from all colleges or universities in which the applicant has completed any college or graduate level course work must be supplied. The applicant is required to complete in full the Application for Admission to the MSW Program, and an application to ASU Graduate School.

Admission decisions are made by the MSW Admissions Committee, comprised of social work faculty members and one or more individuals from the College of Nursing and Health Professions and/or a member of the professional community. The committee weighs all aspects of the completed application, including academic performance, communication skills, commitment to the values underlying the social work profession, and personal qualities necessary for effective clinical social work practice. These evaluations are reflected in a form (appendix E) completed by each member of the committee and compiled as a single report with a recommendation to the chair of the committee. Transfer of credits from another MSW program will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Only courses taken in a Council on Social Work Education accredited Master of Social Work program will be eligible for transfer. The applicant must have received a grade of B or better in the course(s) being considered. In most instances, transfer of credits will only be granted for first year foundation courses. In accordance with accreditation requirements, academic credit will not be given for life experience or work experience.

Applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in social work from a CSWE accredited social work program may be eligible for advanced standing. Course waivers, determined on a course-by-course basis, will be granted only in foundation courses. Waivers are dependent on the comparability of the course content, as determined by the ASU social work faculty. Applicants may be required to provide a course syllabus for each course for which a waiver is being requested. A grade of B or better in the undergraduate course is required. Modified advanced standing status, for students who qualify for some, but not all course waivers, is individually designed. Advisors will assist in developing a plan to complete the MSW degree consistent with course sequencing and within allotted time frames.

Overview of the Curriculum

Master's level social work programs have a general curriculum mandated by the accrediting body in social work, the Council on Social Work Education. The Master's in social work curriculum is designed to enable students to integrate the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession into competent practice. A liberal arts perspective is a prerequisite to the professional degree program in social work. All schools must provide standard foundation curriculum addressing nine content areas, as well as one or more areas of concentration.

Two content areas, social work ethics and values, and diversity (gender, race and ethnicity, and sexual orientation) must be infused throughout the curriculum. The concentration area/s are chosen based on institutional mission and area need. Concentrations are of two types: primary method (e.g. direct practice, administration or management) and social problem or field of practice (e.g. alcohol, drug or substance abuse, family services). The concentration best suited to the needs of Arkansas and especially the lower Mississippi Delta region is Family Well-Being within a rural context.

The Master's in Social Work is delivered in a variety of formats and number of credit hours required. Universities routinely offer full-time, part-time and advanced standing options. However, CSWE policy mandates the equivalent of two academic years of full-time study. Credit hour requirements range by university from 48-60 or more. The MSW at ASU will be delivered in three formats Full-Time Entry, Part-Time Entry and Advanced Standing. The Full Time Entry Program curriculum requires completion of 58 credit hours of graduate work. This is broken down into 44 credit hours of class work and 14 credit hours of field education. A total of 1000 hours of field education are required. This program is designed for individuals with a bachelor's degree in a field other than social work or who graduated more than 5 years prior to application. It is designed to be completed in four semesters over two academic years. The Part-Time Entry level is designed for those who cannot leave their employment to pursue full-time course work. It must be completed in eight semesters over four academic years. The applicant must have a degree from an accredited institution and will be required to complete all of the courses required of the full-time student.

The Advanced Standing Program is designed for qualified students with an undergraduate degree in social work from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Students in this program must have completed their degree within five years of making application to the program with an overall GPA of 3.0. The program is designed to be completed in one summer and two semesters over one calendar year. The curriculum for each program appears under item 7, Curriculum Outline. The Advanced Standing Program curriculum requires completion of 43 credit hours of graduate work. This is broken down into 29 credit hours in course work and 14 credit hours in field education. The 14 credit hours of field education represent a total of 900 clock hours of on site field instruction. To meet the requirements of the Advanced Standing Program, students must demonstrate that content in the following courses has been covered in their undergraduate program; HBSE I, HBSE II, Foundations of Practice I, II, Social Welfare Policy and Services, and 100 hours of field education. In no instance can credit be given for prior work or life experience.

Overview of Program Costs, Faculty Resources, Library Resources, Organizational Structure and Governance, Facilities and Equipment

Program costs, library resources. Program development would begin in 2006 with a budget of \$18,250 which will increase to \$158,360 in 2005 as two full-time equivalent faculty are hired to prepare for students. For Fall 2007, the first year students are enrolled and the program would begin, the proposed budget is \$217,114. Year 4 the budget will increase to \$280,634. Year five (2009) the budget with all faculty in place and the program well under way would be \$289,707. A total of \$30,000 in library costs is projected. A five year summary and yearly budgets are displayed in Section 10.

Faculty resources. This proposal calls for five full-time faculty, and a Director with 50% administrative release time. One of the faculty would hold the position of Field Coordinator with 50% release time. This meets CSWE requirement for a Master in Social Work program which calls for a minimum of six full-time faculty and the requirement for administration and field education. The Council recommends a faculty student ratio of 1:12 (See Appendix A, CSWE Evaluative Standard 4). This proposal calls for an increase in faculty when student enrollment exceeds 72 fte students.

Organization, structure and governance. By CSWE standard "The social work program must have the necessary autonomy and administrative structure to achieve its goals and objectives" (Educational Policy Section 2, CSWE EPAS 3.0). The MSW program will be

housed in a Department of Social Work with the Director reporting to the Chair of the Social Work Department who reports to the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Space requirements. CSWE standards state that “The social work program must have sufficient jurisdiction over physical space to realize program goals. This includes classroom space, private faculty offices, office space for administrative and clerical workers, and space for student and faculty meetings and the student organization.” (See Appendix A, CSWE Evaluative Standard 2.1.6). This proposal calls for a departmental office, private offices for the Director, Field Coordinator and five faculty and a student lounge. Classrooms dedicated to the new Social Work Department will be needed, including one seminar room. Currently the program is housed in the International Student Building and consists of a Departmental Office, Chair’s office, Field Coordinator’s office, 5 offices for permanent faculty and 3 offices for Child Welfare Training Grant (IV-E) personnel. The department also has a small storage area and shares a student lounge with the other occupants of the International Student building. There is an open seminar room that is scheduled by the Office of International Programs. Classrooms are shared with the Department of Criminology, Sociology and Geography. Plans are underway to move the entire department to the Chickasaw building and office space will be designed to meet the needs of the Bachelors program as well as the master’s program. There will be a departmental office, chair’s office, field coordinator’s office storage area/work room, offices for 8 permanent faculty in addition to the chair and field coordinator’s office. Three offices will be included for temporary faculty which includes IV-E faculty and adjunct faculty. Four small to medium classrooms will be assigned to the department within the structure.

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East Arkansas Community College

Technical Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
Certificate of Proficiency in Geographic Information Systems

Program Summary

East Arkansas Community College is requesting approval from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a certificate program in Geospatial Information Systems which consists of a technical certificate (33 credit hours) and a certificate of proficiency (15 credit hours).

Geographic Information Systems is an expanding and evolving technology that has created a demand for programs to provide training on the use of GIS in many fields including agriculture, business, engineering, architecture, environmental studies, and computer science. Certificate programs are a popular and necessary way of training and certifying technicians and working professionals in the GIS technology discipline. Our certificates focus on practical issues such as basic concepts of GIS technology and the use of specific GIS software (ArcGIS application software).

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North Arkansas College

Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture

Program Summary

The Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture is designed to lead the student directly to employment in a specific career. The Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture

specializes in animal sciences, plant sciences, environmental science, agriculture communications, and agriculture business and technology. Though many of the courses required for this degree will transfer to various senior institutions, the Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture is not intended for students planning to transfer. It has been designed to:

- encourage students to pursue a post secondary level of education that can be completed relatively quickly;
- allow students more career opportunities in agriculture;
- allow the articulation of Northark courses with secondary level agriculture courses;
- provide students from two to eighteen hours of college credit for articulated courses; and
- provide those students with a head start on their college education while preparing them to enter the work force in agriculture more quickly.

The new degree program will utilize existing curriculum, costs, resources, facilities, and equipment. However, the Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture will provide academically strong students at the secondary level of education an opportunity to earn college credit for articulated agriculture courses. North Arkansas College currently offers an Associate of Science in Agriculture, Food, and Life Science for students planning to transfer that will support the proposed program.

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NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Associate of General Studies

Program Summary

This degree program is designed to allow an individual course of study for students to meet personal employment or enrichment goals. The AGS will include collegiate level work of academic transferable courses, technical courses, or a combination of both. The degree will include 18-19 hours of general education core courses, including English, Communications, Math, Social/Behavioral Sciences and Computers. The remaining general and technical studies electives (41-42 hours) will be selected in conjunction with an advisor. Students will be required to demonstrate mastery of skills and knowledge in at least one specific area or discipline. The AGS will require a total of 60 credit hours. Courses from any of our current certificate or degree programs could potentially be included in the AGS degree. While many of the required courses could transfer, this degree is designed for the student who does not intend to transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution.

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University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

Associate of Science

Program Summary

The proposed Associate of Science (AS) degree is designed to prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate degree programs in health-related, science, mathematics, or technical areas. The proposed program consists of 62-64 hours including the 35-hour state minimum core. The Associate of Science degree will complement the Associate of Arts program for

transfer students and contain a stronger emphasis on science and mathematics. In addition to the 11 hours of science and mathematics courses required as part of the state minimum core, students will be required to complete an additional 8 hours of mathematics or science applicable to a specific baccalaureate program depending on the student's intended major.

Math requirements may include trigonometry, discrete mathematics, or calculus; science courses may include anatomy and physiology, zoology, botany, microbiology, chemistry, or earth science. An additional 19 hours of electives from college transfer courses will complete the degree requirements.

The proposed degree will be part of the Division of Arts and Sciences. Other courses have been articulated for transfer to four-year institutions may be used as electives for the program. Existing faculty, including 22 full-time faculty in the Division of Arts and Sciences, will instruct in the program. Faculty resources are adequate for the program. The current curriculum in the Division of Arts and Sciences contains sufficient offerings to meet the needs of the degree.

The program will not incur additional administrative costs. Library resources are adequate, and additional acquisitions will be made annually to enhance the current holdings. The College's facilities and equipment are appropriate. A new microbiology lab and chemistry lab have been recently renovated and equipped to meet the needs of the program. In addition, four classrooms have been equipped with network connections and document cameras with ceiling-mounted projectors for use by faculty teaching in this program.

The purpose of the proposed degree is provide students who desire to transfer to a health-related, science, mathematics, or technical field in a baccalaureate program with an option that will provide a seamless transfer without the loss of lower division courses. As the College articulates additional courses and degree plans with transfer institutions, this degree will provide students with an alternative to the Associate of Arts degree.

The Associate of Arts (General Education) and the Associate of Science degrees in Computer Information Science and Land Surveying Technology support the proposed Associate of Science program.

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University of Arkansas--Fort Smith

Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Program Summary

Designed in collaboration with the Fort Smith Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office, this program prepares students for careers in criminal justice and provides continuing education for professionals already employed in the field.

The A.A.S. degree prepares students for entry-level careers in federal law enforcement, state and local police work, probation/parole, and/or corrections. The A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice feeds into the B.S. degree in Criminal Justice. The B.S. degree further prepares students for supervision and management careers in criminal justice fields, as well as provides continuing education for professionals already employed in the field.

Criminal justice agencies have various entrance, background, and physical requirements. These programs of study will assist in preparing students for employment in criminal justice if other criteria established by the employer/agency are met. This major will provide a foundation for post-baccalaureate work in law, public policy, social work, and business.

The A.A.S. and B.S. Criminal Justice programs will not have an impact on any existing programs. These degrees support the mission and vision of the university to raise the education achievement level by providing high quality baccalaureate and associate programs for its six-county Western Arkansas service area.

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University of Arkansas--Fort Smith

Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design

Program Summary

This program was designed based on graphic design programs offered at OSU/Okmulgee, Savannah College of Art & Design, Virginia Commonwealth University, and feedback/input from the UA Fort Smith Graphic Design Advisory Committee along with local area professionals. It builds upon the A.A.S. in Graphic Design currently offered at UA Fort Smith. Students in this discipline learn to be creative and develop technical solutions to design challenges encountered in the workplace, including logos, brochures, packages, advertising and identity designs, copywriting, photography direction, digital media, and illustration. Graduates of the program will have a completed portfolio and be prepared to work for advertising agencies, design studios, television stations, corporate design firms, and other graphic-related industries.

The B.S. in Graphic Design prepares the student with a solid foundation in traditional art and design classes, and then builds upon that foundation with the latest digital media, prepress, advertising, and multimedia skills. The program is designed to meet graphic and digital design needs of the present and future. The proposed program content is based upon surveys and competencies identified by area businesses, industries, graphic design and advertising firms, and printers. The curriculum will be modified on an ongoing basis to meet the future needs of the workforce.

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University of Arkansas--Fort Smith

Bachelor of Science in Middle Childhood Education

Program Summary

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith requests approval of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a new program in middle childhood education with emphasis in English language arts/social studies, leading to the bachelor of science degree. The program capacity is 15 students the first year and 20 students per year thereafter.

In January 2002, Westark College became the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, a four-year degree-granting institution. At that time, the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and area citizens were very clear about the type of institution they wanted to become. Specifically, the "owners" of our institution insisted that four-year status would only add to the educational opportunities offered, rather than completely change the institution. They pledged to continue the one semester certificates of proficiency, one-year technical certificates, associate of applied science and associate of arts degrees, and the pioneering noncredit business and industrial workforce training which the region has strongly supported for the past twenty years.

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith intends to focus on developing five major areas in which to offer bachelor's degrees that meet documented and specific needs. UA Fort Smith does not have the resources or intent to duplicate the breadth and extent of bachelor's and advanced degree programs offered by large universities such as the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville. Rather, UA Fort Smith plans to create a unique university that focuses on those programs, limited in number, that best serve the region and this service area and our students' and clients' needs.

The five major areas in which UA Fort Smith plans to emphasize bachelor's degrees that meet regional needs are as follows:

Education

Health Sciences

Business

Information Technology and other technical programs for which need has been identified

Liberal Arts

UA Fort Smith has, through objective outside surveys and meetings with superintendents, identified the region's strongest education needs. This proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Middle Childhood Education with Emphasis in English Language Arts/Social Studies is one of the key programs in the identified areas.

The program focus will be to provide candidates with the English/language arts and social studies content knowledge and pedagogical skills to serve as middle childhood teachers in grades 4-8. This program provides a strong focus on English and history as well as significant coursework in professional education. In addition to specialized coursework, the program will include general education coursework to provide the background knowledge and skills necessary for a liberal education and the ability to establish effective interpersonal relationships. Since there is a current shortage of qualified teachers, some schools must assign unqualified teachers to teach social studies classes. School districts must be prepared to meet the requirements associated with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 which requires that all teachers be "highly qualified" by 2005-2006. Highly qualified means fully licensed in the subject area they teach. This will be a difficult task in many rural areas. Therefore, it is important for higher education institutions to recruit, prepare, and help retain qualified teachers for the middle childhood classrooms of Arkansas.

The degree program will be housed in the College of Education. It is under the direction of the dean of the College of Education who reports to the provost. The program will require 130 semester hours of coursework for completion and will include the general education requirements, coursework in English language arts/social studies content, and coursework in professional education.

Existing Degree Programs that Support the Proposed Program: Courses in the existing Middle Childhood Education with Emphasis in Math/Science program will be used in the proposed program.

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Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) will review the applications at the quarterly meeting on June 28, 2005.

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Extension Campus, Conway, AR

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Extension Campus (BMATS) of Conway, AR, submitted application for initial certification for the Master of Arts in Theological Studies.

BMATS also submitted application for recertification of the following programs: Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion, which were initially certified in August 2003.

Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

Capella University of Minneapolis, MN submitted application for recertification of the following programs: Bachelor of Science in Business with specializations in Business Administration, Finance, Human Resource Management, and Management and Leadership; Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with specializations in Graphics and Multimedia, Network Technology, Project Management, and Web Application Development; Master of Science in Organization and Management with specializations in Human Resource Management, Information Technology Management, and Leadership; Master of Business Administration with specializations in Finance and Marketing; Master of Science in Technology with specializations in Information Technology, Information Security, Network Architecture and Design, Project Management and Leadership, and System Design and Programming; and Doctor of Philosophy in Organization and Management with specializations in Human Resource Management, Information Technology Management, and Leadership. The programs were initially certified in August 2003.

Graceland University, Independence, MO

Graceland University submitted application for initial certification of the following online programs: Master of Science in Nursing for Registered Nurses, and Post-Graduate Certificates in Family Nurse Practitioner and Health Care Administration

Graceland also submitted application for recertification of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing which have been offered to Arkansas students via distance delivery since 1995, were recertified in August 2003.

ITT Technical Institute, Little Rock, AR

ITT Technical Institute submitted application for the initial certification of the following programs: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Business Accounting Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

Rio Salado College, Tempe, AZ

Rio Salado College of submitted application for decertification of the Associate of General Studies offered in Arkansas since August 2003.

University of Phoenix, New Location in Rogers, AR

The University of Phoenix submitted application for initial certification of the following programs to be offered in Rogers, AR: Bachelor of Science in Business with an option in Management, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology Master of Business Administration, and Master of Management.

Vincennes University, Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR

Vincennes University submitted application for recertification of the following programs: Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, and the Associate of General Studies. The programs were initially certified in 1987 and were recertified in August 2002.

Webster University, Fort Smith, AR

Webster University-Fort Smith submitted application for the initial certification of the Master of Arts in Computer Resources and Information Management.

Webster also submitted application for the recertification of the Master of Business Administration initially certified in 1998, and the Master of Arts in Human Resources Management initially certified in 2001. Both programs were recertified in August 2003.