

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies at Appalachian State University

Appalachian State University requests authorization to establish a BA in Global Studies degree (CIP 05.9999) effective August 2008.

Program Description

ASU proposes developing existing concentrations within the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies into separate degree programs. The proposed BA in Global Studies will utilize faculty from 12 departments across the campus to develop understanding of historical, social, political, geographic, and cultural dimensions of international and global processes. After taking a series of core courses, students will choose a focal area from a wide range of options, which will be reinforced through additional requirements in foreign language, study abroad, and a capstone experience. There are currently about 30 students majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies areas that would be incorporated into this degree, and it is anticipated that the program will eventually have 40 majors.

UNC Tomorrow Relevance

The program primarily responds to UNC Tomorrow findings relating to global readiness. It addresses ASU's strategic goal of "educating students to be responsible citizens and effective leaders in the global society of the 21st Century. Coursework will require students to make connections across disciplines, through direct experience of study abroad, and through its emphasis on competence in a foreign language. The program will promote interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty and academic units on international and global issues and will also address several of the goals and learning outcomes of ASU's new General Education curriculum.

Resource Implications

The more than 50 faculty teaching courses for this degree are already located in departments across campus, and the number of faculty is adequate for the program. The majority of courses are now offered as part of departmental offerings. The small number of Global Studies offerings are supported through campus supplemental instruction funds. Moving this and other interdisciplinary degree programs out of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (which will be dissolved) into the newly created University College will save some resources associated with a departmental infrastructure, including the department chair position.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the ASU request to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Studies (CIP 05.9999) effective August 2008.