

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education at UNC Wilmington

UNC Wilmington requests authorization to establish a BS in Community Health Education degree (CIP 51.2207) effective August 2008.

Program Description

UNCW's Department of Health and Applied Human Sciences requests authorization to convert its current Community Health Education concentration in its Physical Education BA degree into a separate degree program. This is necessary for the program to qualify for accreditation with the American Association of Health Education, which in turn enables students to qualify for certain jobs and graduate schools. The Community Health Education program prepares students to assess the health needs of individuals and communities. Students learn how to plan, implement and evaluate health programs for diverse populations in a variety of community, workplace, hospital, nonprofit, and school locations. It is anticipated that the program will sustain an enrollment of 75 full-time majors.

UNC Tomorrow Relevance

The program primarily responds to the UNC Tomorrow finding that UNC should lead in improving the health and wellness of all people and communities in the State. What was once only a hospital or health department-based occupation has grown to include nursing and rehabilitation care facilities, worksite wellness programs, nonprofit agencies, and physicians' offices. Collaborative opportunities will be explored with the School of Nursing and the Departments of Communication Studies and Psychology.

Resource Implications

Conversion of this concentration of courses into a separate baccalaureate degree will require no additional resources. All courses are in place, sufficient classroom space is allocated, and there are sufficient faculty to support the major. Many Community Health courses will also serve as requirements or electives for other majors.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the UNCW request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education degree (CIP 51.2207) effective August 2008.