

APPENDIX L

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology at Appalachian State University

Introduction

Appalachian State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology degree (CIP# 43.0104) in March 2005. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

The proposed program will be located in the Department of Political Science. It is an interdisciplinary degree designed to provide broad-based education for individuals preparing to enter the field of criminal justice at the managerial level, enhance the capabilities and performance of those currently in the criminal justice field, foster pertinent research in criminal justice, and prepare individuals wishing to pursue a terminal degree (Ph.D.) in Criminal Justice or Criminology. The program will consist of required courses in Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Sociology that are designed to provide an overview of the criminal justice system, research methods, and social and theoretical issues; an internship, directed research project, or thesis designed to link theory with practice; and elective courses offering concentrated areas of study in Political Science, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, Management, and Public Administration.

Program Need

The US Department of Labor and the NC Employment Exchange Commission both forecast higher than average growth in criminal justice activities. Criminal Justice, Homeland Security Technologies, and Forensic Science are identified as growth cluster areas by the Western NC Economic Development Commission. Surveys of students enrolled in Criminal Justice courses at ASU indicate substantial interest in a master's program. No master's level Criminal Justice program is currently available in this area of NC. With the re-organization of many federal law enforcement agencies, demand for individuals trained in Criminal Justice and Criminology has grown in agencies such as the FBI, CIA, and INS. A four-year degree is required to be a special agent at the federal level. The proposed program complements the ASU Institute for Health and Human Services, which will maximize the capacity of health and human services disciplines to address regional needs through collaborative research, training, and clinical services. It is anticipated that 45 students will be enrolled in the program by its fourth year.

Resources

The only additional state resources required are enrollment expansion funding based on increased enrollment.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology degree at Appalachian State University effective August 2006.

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Social Work Degree at Appalachian State University

Introduction

Appalachian State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Social Work degree (CIP# 44.0701) in July 2005. ASU requests authorization to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Social Work will be a 60-hour degree program—30 hours of a professional foundation curriculum and 30 hours in an advanced curriculum—with full-time on campus and part-time off campus components. Students will take courses in other departments as appropriate—courses leading to a certificate in Gerontology, substance abuse courses in Sociology or Psychological Counseling, school social worker courses from the College of Education, or courses in public administration and health care management. The primary goal of the advanced curriculum will be to prepare graduates who can function with a high degree of autonomy and effectiveness; contribute to the quality of services in their organizations and communities; and apply the knowledge, skills, and methods of advanced social work practice in an area of concentration.

Program Need

The US Department of Labor projects that social work positions will grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2012. The rural counties served by ASU have high poverty and unemployment rates, and no other MSW programs are geographically convenient in the region. Administrators of regional agencies are strong proponents of an ASU MSW program, and student demand for the program has been documented by the ASU Graduate School, Office of Extension Instruction, and the successful undergraduate Social Work program. The proposed program complements establishment of the ASU Institute for Health and Human Services, which will maximize the capacity of health and human services disciplines to address regional needs through collaborative research, training, and clinical services. It is anticipated that 70 students will be pursuing degrees in the program by its fourth year.

Resources

The only additional state resources required are enrollment expansion funding based on increased enrollment.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Social Work degree at Appalachian State University effective August 2006.