

APPENDIX I

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Science at UNC Chapel Hill

Introduction

The Board of Governors authorized the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Science (CIP# 11.0401) in *Long-Range Planning 2000-2005*. The university requests authorization to establish the program in April 2002.

Program Description

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS), to be located in the School of Information and Library Science, involves the study of cognitive, social, technological, and organizational roles of information in all its forms. Students will take a set of core courses and a series of specialty concentration courses. The three concentration areas to be offered are Information Technology (information development, processing, storage, transmission, and use); Management of Information Resources (management of information in organizations); and Information Design (information systems and services).

Program Need

The importance of this major has grown and will continue to grow as society increases its reliance on creating, storing, transmitting, securing, evaluating, and managing information. It is expected that student demand for the BSIS will meet and likely exceed demand for the undergraduate minor in information systems currently offered by the School of Information and Library Science. By the fourth year of the program, 100 BSIS majors are anticipated, with approximately 50 students graduating each year. Job prospects for BSIS majors are excellent; surveys show that there is a severe shortage of workers in information technology nationwide. The presence of a strong BSIS program will prepare undergraduate students to enter the MS in Information Science and MS in Library Science programs that already exist at UNC Chapel Hill, and will serve the needs of students majoring in other areas as well, such as Computer Science and Business.

Resources

No new state resources are requested.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science in Information Science at UNC Chapel Hill, effective April 1, 2002.