

APPENDIX F

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Introduction

UNC Charlotte notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training (CIP# 31.0503) in the Department of Health Promotion and Kinesiology on June 12, 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2002.

Program Description

The requested BS in Athletic Training responds to a requirement by the National Athletic Trainers' Association and its accrediting arm (Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or CAAHEP) that athletic training programs must be accredited college "majors" in order for students to be eligible for all pertinent licensure and certification exams. In response to this requirement, the Department of Health Promotion and Kinesiology requests to change the current concentration area within the departmental Health Fitness BS degree to a BS in Athletic Training. The department has been preparing athletic trainers for over 12 years. It anticipates that in four years the degree program will have 30 full-time students, making it the largest athletic trainer program in the state (degree programs also exist at ASU, UNC Chapel Hill, and East Carolina). The program will use existing courses in the department and will include classroom and clinical instruction in a variety of content areas specified in CAAHEP standards. Graduates of this program will be prepared to take the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification exam and will be prepared for NC licensure.

Program Need

The NC General Assembly enacted a statute effective January 1, 1998, that all certified athletic trainers must be licensed. There is increasing recognition that to improve the treatment and prevention of athletes' injuries, all athletes must be supervised by certified, licensed athletic trainers. Only 16 percent of NC high schools currently comply with an AMA recommendation that they have an athletic trainer—one indication of potential employment opportunities for program graduates. The NCAA has also issued guidelines for the presence of qualified emergency care providers at athletic events, and a UNCC survey has identified the need for 22 additional athletic trainers at regional colleges and universities in the next several years.

Resources

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of this program, particularly as it relates to the large number of courses, faculty, and facilities shared with the currently established BS in Health Fitness, the demand on resources should be minimal. Future growth of the program will be funded by departmental reallocations and by enrollment funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte effective August 1, 2002.