

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at UNC Wilmington

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington requests authorization to establish a B.S. in Information Technology degree program (CIP 11.0103).

Program Description

The Department of Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management in the Cameron School of Business are requesting to offer a multi-disciplinary program leading to a BS degree in Information Technology (IT). The field of Information Technology is defined as “the study, design, development, implementation, support or management of computer-based information systems, particularly software applications and computer hardware.” Graduates will be able to evaluate current and emerging technologies; identify user needs; design user-friendly interfaces; apply, configure, and manage IT technologies; assess IT impact on individuals, organizations, and the environment; and apply fundamental IT concepts and strategies to real-world problems. A new state-of-the-art Computer Information Systems Building will house the proposed 124 semester credit hour Information Technology program.

Relevance to Institutional Mission and Strategic Plan

The proposed degree program is fully consistent with the mission of UNCW. The importance of the disciplines of computer science, computer information systems, and information technology to Southeastern North Carolina’s economic development underscores the relevance of this new degree program to UNCW’s support of regional and state interests.

Highlights from UNC-GA Data Template

Three UNC campuses currently offer a baccalaureate degree in Information Technology (ECU, UNCP, and WSSU). No private institutions currently offer this degree. In the past three years, UNC Wilmington has established four new baccalaureate and four new Masters programs, and has discontinued five baccalaureate and two Masters programs.

Outcome of Consultation with Disciplinary Panel

The panel included faculty members from ECU, UNCC, UNCP, and WSSU in addition to the UNCW faculty presenters. Discussion centered on the interdisciplinary aspects of this degree program, and the benefits that graduates will realize. There was consensus on the desirability of offering this program at UNC Wilmington.

Student Demand

Student demand for degree programs in Information Technology is indicated by the number of student minors in IT, and survey data from current students. UNCW started an IT Minor in 2004; there are 40 students enrolled in the program, and it is currently one of the largest minors at the university. In addition, a Spring 2008 survey to 104 undergraduate UNCW students in several

lower-level computer science and management information systems courses found that 49% (51 of the 104 students) indicated that they would consider a degree in Information Technology if it were available. Since most of the students responding to the survey were not Computer Science and/or Management Information Systems majors (only 21 of the 104 students listed CSC or MIS as their intended major), it appears there is appropriate demand for this new major. UNCW projects full enrollment of the program in its fourth year will be 30 full-time and 4 part-time upper division students.

Opportunities for Graduates of the Program

According to the proposal, “The UNC Tomorrow report projects the demand for *new* computer and technology workers to be 23,000 by 2014. This is the third highest growth profession for North Carolina.” In addition, the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) lists “information” as one of the top eight areas for future employment with jobs growing by more than 11% by 2014, with some areas growing as much as 67%. The BLS also states that the five fastest growing occupations are “technology”-based with a projection of an additional 1.5 million jobs. The advisory board for the Information Systems and Computer Science departments at UNC Wilmington has reviewed the proposed program and indicated a high need for graduates of this program.

Resource Implications

Resource needs: No additional library resources, equipment, or physical facilities are needed to implement this new program. One new faculty position will be needed in Year 2, and UNCW has committed to reallocating an existing position if no enrollment growth funding is available.

Resources allocated: Four new courses are currently being developed in-load. A Program Coordinator position (faculty release time) will be provided by reallocation of existing resources. The Department of Computer Science and the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management will jointly oversee the new program.

Estimated cost to the State: Based on the University funding formula, in the fourth year, UNC Wilmington would generate additional state appropriations of approximately \$109,000 if fully funded by the General Assembly.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve UNC Wilmington’s request to establish a B.S. in Information Technology degree program (CIP 11.0103).

General Information Template for Academic Program Review

Degree Area and Level:

B.S. in Information Technology (CIP 11.0103) at UNC Wilmington

Addressing UNC Tomorrow:

This proposed program would address several Recommendations within the UNC Tomorrow Report including the components to enhance our Global Readiness (Recommendation 4.1) and Our Citizens and Their Future: Access to Higher Education (Recommendation 4.2).

Role of Program in Relation to State and Regional Needs:

According to the proposal, "The UNC Tomorrow report projects the demand for *new* computer and technology workers to be 23,000 by 2014. This is the third highest growth profession for North Carolina."

US Labor Department Analysis:

– Summary – N/A

Availability of Program Statewide (Enrollment and Degrees Awarded in Last 3 Years):

- Public universities

Upper Division Enrollment			Academic Year						
			Fall 07	Spr 08	Fall 08	Spr 09	Fall 09	Spr 10	Fall 10
ECU	Information and Computer Technology	BS	N/A	N/A	1	1	116	0	94
UNCP	Information Technology	BS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	13	18
WSSU	Information Technology	BS	10	14	16	19	15	15	19

Number of Degrees Awarded			Academic Year		
			2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
ECU	Information and Computer Technology	BS	29	26	35
UNCP	Information Technology	BS	N/A	N/A	3
WSSU	Information Technology	BS	0	5	9

- Private universities – N/A

Available in Online or Distance Format from UNC institutions: According to the Distance Education Inventory, ECU is approved to offer the BS in Information and Computer Technology online.

Available from Academic Common Market: North Carolina does not participate in the ACM at the undergraduate level.

UNCW Campus enrollment and degrees awarded in similar programs at the Bachelors level:
(Based on two CIP digits –11 CIP is the summary group for Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services under which Information Technology is listed as a program.)

Upper Division Enrollment			Academic Year						
			Fall 07	Spr 08	Fall 08	Spr 09	Fall 09	Spr 10	Fall 10
UNCW	Computer Science	BS	25	31	23	24	26	35	43

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Number of Degrees Awarded			Academic Year		
			2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
UNCW	Computer Science	BS	20	16	22

Campus Average of enrollment and degrees awarded per degree program in this area at the Bachelors level over the last 3 Academic Years, Fall 2007-Fall 2010:

(Based on two CIP digits –11 CIP is the summary group for Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services under which Information Technology is listed as a program.)

Campus Average			
	Number of Active Programs	Upper Division Enrollment per Semester	Degrees Awarded per Year
ASU	1	79	23
ECU	2	72	26
ECSU	1	37	13
FSU	1	52	12
NCA&T	1	106	28
NCCU	2	42	10
UNCA	2	36	17
UNC-CH	2	42	22
UNCC	1	354	85
UNCG	2	94	26
UNCP	2	24	7
UNCW	1	30	19
WCU	1	26	7
WSSU	3	30	9
Campus Average:		73	22

UNCW Campus Degree Programs added in the past three years:

- *Bachelor*
 - BS Community Health Education (06/13/2008)
 - BS Oceanography (02/12/2010)
 - BA International Studies (04/09/2010)
 - BS Exercise Science (06/11/2010)
- *Master*
 - MA Environmental Studies (01/11/2008)
 - MA Spanish (01/11/2008)
 - MS Clinical Research and Product Development (04/09/2010)
 - MS Coastal and Ocean Policy (11/11/2011)
- *Doctoral*
 - N/A

UNCW Campus Degree Programs discontinued in past three years:

- *Bachelor*
 - BA Special Education, Cross-Categorical (03/20/2009)
 - BA Special Education, Behaviorally/Emotionally Handicapped (03/20/2009)
 - BA Special Education, Mental Retardation (03/20/2009)
 - BA Special Education, Learning Disabilities (03/20/2009)
 - BA History, Teacher Licensure (03/20/2009)
- *Master*
 - MA Mathematics (03/20/2009)
 - MEd Special Education (02/12/2010)
- *Doctoral*
 - N/A