

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Degree at UNC Pembroke

Introduction

UNC Pembroke notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) degree (CIP 30.9999) in August 2006 and requests authorization to establish the degree effective January 2008.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) program is exclusively designed for learners with at least two years of transferable credit from institutions other than UNCP, who hold either Associate in Applied Arts or Associate in Applied Science degrees. The program serves adult students, in particular, who seek a broad, more flexible degree program to help them to advance or become more established in their careers or to improve their understanding of the world around them. The BIS degree is an interdisciplinary restructuring of existing courses to constitute a program, with eight specific track (specializations) in Applied Professional Studies, Applied Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Cultural Studies, Family Studies, Hispanic Commerce, Hospitality, and Public & Non-profit Administration. The program will serve adult students, in particular, who seek a broad, more flexible degree program to help them advance in their careers or improve their understanding of the world around them. The BIS is intended for a set of diverse students who bring many academic, personal, and work-related experiences to the program including individuals who hold associate technical degrees from the community colleges. BIS students will be expected to meet the University's general education core requirements and take middle and upper level courses combined into an array of interdisciplinary program tracks.

Program Need

The economy of North Carolina depends on the availability of an educated and technologically updated workforce. While the traditional BA and BS degrees serve the general college-bound population, a large segment of the state's population remains underserved—primarily those who have either completed or are interested in completing two-year primarily-technical degrees in NC community colleges. The program will build upon the skills and knowledge gained in such technical and vocational programs offered within the AAS programs at community colleges and enhances the capabilities of the participants by offering complementary classes comparable to those generally available only to Associate in Science and Associate in Arts community college graduates.

Resources

Existing courses will satisfy the requirements for the various tracks of this degree. No other resources are required.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the UNC Pembroke request to establish a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree (CIP 30.9999) effective January 2008.