

APPENDIX I

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science in Information Technology Degree at NC A&T State University

Introduction

NC A&T State University notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan an MS in Information Technology degree in July 2006 and requests authorization to establish the degree in October 2007.

Program Description

Information technology is the study, design, development, implementation, and support of computer-based information systems to address real-world problems. The MS in Information Technology will provide advanced skills for technology professional in both the public and private sectors including business, industry, government, and education. The MS in IT program is to be offered completely on-campus as well as through the NCA&TSU Center for Distance Learning in a flexible Internet format for working professionals. The program will offer thesis, project and course work options, and all options require a written comprehensive exam. The program will provide a foundation in programming systems analysis and design, database design and management, and networking; incorporate a strong applications-oriented component to reinforce fundamental concepts; and integrate general education competencies such as applied research, written and oral communication, critical thinking, problem solving and team skills.

Program Need

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has estimated that 70% of all job growth between 2002 and 2012 in science and engineering will be in information technology areas. The rapid growth of information technology and its applications in the job market has created a need for multi-skilled workers at all levels, including the master's. The interdisciplinary IT degree will satisfy the demand of employers for employees with multiple sets of skills. Enrollment and degrees conferred data show that the pool of computer sciences, engineering, and technology students enrolled at NCA&TSU is clearly adequate to support a master's program in information technology averaging 20 students a year for the first five years. NCA&TSU is particularly well positioned to increase the number of minority workers in advanced information technology jobs.

Resources

The department is in the process of using reallocated institutional funds to hire three additional faculty members to teach in the new program in addition to current faculty. Campus library, facility and information technology resources are adequate for the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NCA&T State University request to establish an MS in Information Technology degree (CIP 11.1001) effective October 2007.