

APPENDIX N

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Social Work Degree at North Carolina State University

Introduction

NCSU notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Social Work degree (CIP# 44.0701) in November 2003. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2005.

Program Description

The proposed MSW would prepare students for advanced social work practice in either Direct Practice (with individuals, families, or groups) or Community Partnerships (social work administration and community practice). In each area of social work practice students can pursue either the Children & Families Specialty or the Mental Health Specialty. Adhering to the standard for graduate social work in the US, the MSW program will be 60 credit hours of class and field work taken in either a full-time program (two years) or part-time program (three years).

Program Need

Demand for the MSW program is strong as supported by local feasibility study data and national labor market projections. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The rapidly growing elderly population and the aging baby boom generation will create greater demand for health and social services, resulting in particularly rapid job growth in gerontology social workers. Many job openings also will stem from the need to replace social workers who leave the occupation." The proposed program fits a market niche in the Research Triangle, providing an option for employed individuals seeking courses offered on a weekend and evening basis. Many health and human services agencies' state and regional offices are located in Raleigh. Strong interest in such as program has been expressed by individuals working in the region and by students enrolled in NCSU's Bachelor of Social Work program. An advanced degree in social work has become the standard for many positions including those in health settings and clinical work. By the fourth year of the program, it is anticipated that 20 full-time and 45 part-time students will be enrolled.

Resources

No additional state resources are required. Program needs will be addressed through internal reallocations and enrollment increase funds.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish an Master of Social Work degree (CIP# 44.0701) at North Carolina State University effective August 2005.