

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature degree (CIP# 16.0905) on May 22, 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2003.

Program Description

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Department faculty have concurrently planned MA degrees in French and Spanish. These degrees will integrate the study of language, literature, and culture. Teachers or those who wish to pursue a teaching career will have the opportunity to integrate their studies with practical classroom applications and instruction in the use of the latest technologies. The courses will be offered in late afternoons, evenings, and intensive summer sessions as well as by distance education so that practicing teachers can enroll in them. The new Foreign Languages Technology Center will make possible hands-on experience with the resources of the Internet, multimedia, and the rapidly expanding field of foreign language software. The program will emphasize not only understanding, speaking, writing, and reading the language, but also historical and contemporary aspects of the cultures in which the language is spoken and literary works and films suitable for classroom use at various levels. The College of Education has worked closely with the language faculty developing this program.

Program Need

At present there is no program in North Carolina designed specifically to enable practicing language teachers to complete a master's degree and to obtain "M" licensure without leaving their jobs. This program will enable teachers to continue teaching while they upgrade their linguistic and pedagogical skills. The rapid pace of social, political, and economic change in the current world make the study of culture ever more complex, and teachers trained some years ago are finding it increasingly difficult to function as effectively as needed in today's schools. The proposed degree program will not only bring teachers up to date in the study of language, literature, and culture, but will also give them the tools to continue learning about new developments through use of new instructional and communications technologies. By the fourth year of the program, it is anticipated that 15 full-time and 20 part-time students will be enrolled.

Resources

New funding will come from enrollment increase funds and internal reallocations; no other state funds are requested.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature degree at North Carolina State University effective August 2003.