

**Request to Establish a  
Master of Arts in Global Studies program at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

UNC Chapel Hill requests authorization to establish a M.A. in Global Studies degree program (CIP 30.2001).

**Program Description**

The M.A. in Global Studies program is a 36-hour curriculum with 21 hours of core courses and 15 hours of electives. Students will enter in one of three concentration areas that reflect strengths of UNC Chapel Hill faculty: 1) Global Politics, Institutions and Societies; 2) Global Economy; 3) Global Migration and Labor Rights. All students must take a core course in each of the three concentration areas during the first year; then, students pursue electives to gain mastery in their concentration areas. Global studies is interdisciplinary by nature, and numerous campus departments have committed to cooperate in the degree program, particularly regarding elective courses. The program also includes research methods and design requirements, as well as up to nine hours of internship, field research, and/or study abroad experience (students will be advised depending on their prior experience). In the final semester, students complete a research writing course to prepare a publishable paper or policy brief for oral defense.

**Mission Relevance**

The degree program in Global Studies fits well with the institution's overall mission and vision and with the strategic priorities defined in University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's *2011 Academic Plan*. One of six major themes in the 2011 Academic Plan is to "Extend Carolina's global presence, teaching, research and public service." The institutional mission emphasizes development of skills that "foster enlightened leadership for the state and nation," the offering of distinctive graduate programs, and engagement with national and international needs.

**Student Demand**

With approximately 800 declared undergraduate majors, Global Studies is one of the largest and fastest growing undergraduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and a ready source of potential applicants. The Curriculum in Global Studies also receives and tracks regular inquiries about graduate offerings from prospective domestic and international students. The proposal provides application and enrollment data for comparable programs across the country, including at Columbia, Georgetown, George Washington University, and Johns Hopkins. In each case, the programs are highly sought and competitive, accepting anywhere from 5-20% of applicants.

**Societal Demand and Opportunities for Program Graduates**

Program graduates will be qualified and expected to find work across a large range of positions, including in international business, government and foreign service, finance, international aid, think tanks, multilateral organizations, international policy organizations, and the non-profit arenas. Employment data published for 2007-2011 by a peer program of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Affairs confirms this breadth of opportunities for graduates.

**Resource Implications**

No new resources are needed. Since 2010, UNC Chapel Hill has invested in the additional teaching and program administration capacity needed to launch the program. Two joint faculty positions between Global Studies and other partner departments, Geography and Public Policy, were hired effective July 2012. The third position, a Lecturer hired in 2010, will also serve as Director of Graduate Studies and

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assist with internship placement and other programmatic matters. The program draws heavily on collaborating faculty in existing departments and units across campus.

### **Collaborative Opportunities**

East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, and Duke University each offer graduate programs in international studies; generally speaking, these programs either emphasize different areas of concentration from those proposed by UNC Chapel Hill or target different pools of prospective students (e.g. working mid-career professionals versus full-time enrollees). Establishment of the UNC Chapel Hill graduate program will invite new opportunities for students in these programs to pursue inter-institutional course registrations, particularly for elective interests. The program also represents effective intra-institutional collaborations among a large number of departments and units at UNC Chapel Hill. Collaborative opportunities with North Carolina State University are described more fully in the next section.

### **Outcome of Consultation with Disciplinary Experts**

The proposal was reviewed by twenty-three faculty and graduate program administrators from nine UNC campuses. Reviewers consistently noted that the proposed program shows strong alignment with institutional mission and also takes advantage of significant existing human resource and other capacities at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Several reviewers recommended additional attention to collaborative opportunities, particularly with North Carolina State University's Master of International Studies (M.I.S.), as well as more information on plans to financially support graduate students. Regarding collaborative opportunities, leaders of the proposed M.A. program met with North Carolina State University's M.I.S. program leaders in February 2013. As a result, they identified several areas of potential collaboration, such as having faculty mentors serve on their respective student master's committees and the creation of jointly taught courses. The program leaders established immediate action steps to jointly develop co-curricular programming and encourage cross-campus enrollments in the area of global migration and labor rights. Regarding financial support for graduate students, the M.A. program is proposing a model of primarily student-paid tuition, but assistantships and other support has been identified for approximately one-third of students in the proposed program. Finally, some reviewers requested clarification around the foreign language requirement. It was clarified that foreign language proficiency is required for admission and can be demonstrated through coursework or certification from the appropriate department at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; however, an exception could be made, for example, for a very strong candidate interested in studying labor and migration issues in the United States or another English-speaking area.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approval University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's request to establish a M.A. in Global Studies degree program (CIP 30.2001) effective August 2013.