

APPENDIX P

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition Science at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified General Administration of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition Science (30.1901) on February 22, 2005. The university now requests approval to establish the program in March 2006.

Program Description

The proposed major in Nutrition Science will replace the current nutrition concentration in Biological Sciences and will build on the strong foundation in biological science at NCSU. The proposed program will be housed in the Department of Food Science in The College of Agriculture and Life Science. The Nutrition Science degree is interdisciplinary and its educational objectives are to 1) provide a strong foundation in basic science (chemistry, physics, math and statistics, biochemistry, microbiology, anatomy, genetics, physiology), 2) provide a sound understanding in several areas of nutritional sciences including nutritional and metabolic biochemistry, global food production and distribution, and food processing, 3) provide broad education in areas ancillary to nutritional science such as public policy development, and 4) equip students with data analysis skills so they can function in a research, corporate or technical environment. Moreover, the program requires that students complete an independent experience in research, teaching, or service related to nutrition sciences. The proposed degree in Nutrition Science will provide appropriate preparation for students interested in pursuing graduate education or career goals in nutrition, medical school, allied health, and the food industry.

Program Need

Health professionals in many fields need better understanding of nutrition to cope with America's use (and over use) of food. The proposed program has been designed because of the significant increase in enrollment in the nutrition concentration in Biological Sciences in recent years. In November 2005, there were 125 students enrolled in the nutritional concentration. The majority of students who elect to take the nutrition concentration pursue advanced degrees. By year four, it is projected that there will be 170 students enrolled in this degree program, and the productivity forecast suggests that this program will continue to increase in enrollment.

Resources

The proposed degree in Nutrition Science will strengthen the interdepartmental collaborations and increase efficiency in the use of resources. All courses listed in the curriculum are currently taught by existing faculty with existing resources. As enrollment increases, new faculty will be added.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve North Carolina State University's request to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Science, effective April 2006.