

APPENDIX K

Request for Authorization to Establish a Joint Master of Science Degree in Human Development and Family Studies at North Carolina State University and UNC-Greensboro

Introduction

UNC-Greensboro currently offers an MS in Human Development and Family Studies. In addition to this existing degree, UNC-G and NCSU request authorization to establish a joint MS degree in Human Development and Family Studies (CIP 19.0701) with a concentration in Family Life and Parent Education effective August 2006.

Program Description

The current UNCG MS in Human Development and Family Studies offers two options—a research oriented thesis track and a non-thesis track in Family Life and Parent Education. The thesis option will remain unchanged as a UNCG degree program. UNCG and NCSU propose changing the Family Life and Parent Education option into a separate joint degree that will be offered by the UNCG Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the NCSU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The curriculum is designed to acquaint students with principles of teaching adults and developing educational programs, as well as building knowledge about family and community systems, child development, parent education, and other areas of family life education. The existing UNCG curricular strengths will be complemented by the NCSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences program that meets the needs of professionals serving families in communities, thus providing a balance among theory, research, and application. Joint administrative processes have been developed for admissions, registration, program management, advising, financial aid, and graduation.

Program Need

The proposed joint degree is designed to meet the growing societal demand for parenting and family life education for families and community institutions. Demands arise from the court systems as a way for parents to keep their children; through prisons, as parents prepare to reenter communities; through social service organizations working toward family support and reduced child maltreatment; and through schools and communities preparing children for kindergarten and preparing families to support their child's learning. The program will be unique in NC in preparing students with the experiences and knowledge to deliver parent education programs. It is anticipated that 10 full-time and 20 part-time students will be enrolled by the fourth year of the program.

Resources

The concentration already exists at UNCG with adequate faculty and library resources. The NCSU College of Agricultural and Life Sciences will reallocate 1.5 positions. A person has been hired at NCSU to assist in distance education delivery of many of the courses. As the program grows, enrollment expansion funds will be used to hire additional faculty. In future years grant funding will be sought to add a laboratory facility hosting family services.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Joint MS in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Family Life and Parent Education (CIP 19.0701) at UNCG and NCSU effective August 2006.