

APPENDIX J

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Music Therapy Degree at Appalachian State University

Introduction

Appalachian State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Music Therapy degree (CIP# 51.2305) in October 2004. ASU requests authorization to establish the program in March 2005.

Program Description

Music therapy is the prescribed use of music and musical interventions in order to restore, maintain, and improve emotional and physical health and well-being. Music therapy works towards specific therapeutic goals and objectives, including communicative, academic, motor, emotional, and social skills. The MMT degree is a 36-semester hour academic and clinical program that prepares music therapists for advanced professional practice in music therapy. The program consists of advanced courses in music therapy and supportive courses in research and a clinical specialization area (*e.g.*, counseling, expressive arts, addictions, health care, gerontology, and special education). In the second year of their graduate program, students will either write a thesis or conduct a clinical project to demonstrate command of the literature and research methodology.

Program Need

Music therapists in North Carolina are employed in a variety of settings, including hospitals, rehabilitation and disabilities centers, nursing facilities, early intervention programs, and public schools. Opportunities for employment are available in expanding areas of health care delivery such as hospice care, substance abuse programs, oncology treatment centers, pain/stress management clinics, and correctional settings. The only other music therapy program in NC is located at ECU. National data indicate a steady growth in enrollments in such programs. Student demand for the program comes from music therapists seeking advanced education, partly due to licensure renewal requirements of the Certification Board for Music Therapists. It is anticipated that approximately ten full-time students and one part-time student will be enrolled in the program when it is fully operational.

Resources

Program needs will be addressed through enrollment increase funds and internal reallocations. Almost all courses for the proposed program current exist at ASU.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Music Therapy degree (CIP# 51.2305) at Appalachian State University effective March 2005.

