



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Council on Postsecondary Education
OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER
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Enclosure 5b2.
April 27, 2016

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TO: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D, Commissioner for Postsecondary Education

DATE: April 20, 2016

RE: **Proposal for the College of Health Sciences to certify and grant the Bachelor of Science degree for majors in Communicative Disorders, Health Studies, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Psychology and the Bachelor of Arts degree for Psychology majors at the University of Rhode Island**

Background

The University of Rhode Island (URI) is proposing that the College of Health Sciences certify and grant the following Bachelor of Science (BS) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees:

- BS for majors in Communicative Disorders;
- BS for majors in Health Studies;
- BS for majors in Human Development and Family Studies;
- BS for majors in Kinesiology;
- BS for majors in Nutrition and Dietetics;
- BS for majors in Psychology and
- BA for majors in Psychology.

Rationale

The creation of URI's new College of Health Sciences was approved by the Board of Education on July 7, 2015 with six health-related departments: 1) Communicative Disorders; 2) Human Development and Family Studies, 3) Kinesiology; 4) Nutrition and Food Science; 5) Physical Therapy; 6) Psychology, and one interdisciplinary degree major in Health Studies.

At this same meeting, the Board approved the closure of the College of Human Science and Services, and transferred its departments -- Communicative Disorders, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Physical Therapy, and Health Studies -- to the College of Health Sciences. The Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, previously part of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, and the Department of Psychology, previously part of the College of Arts and Sciences, were also transferred to the new College of Health Sciences.

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URI is now seeking approval for the College of Health Sciences to certify and grant the Bachelor of Science degree for majors in Communicative Disorders, Health Studies, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Psychology and the Bachelor of Arts degree for Psychology majors.

RIOPC Review

RIOPC staff reviewed the information in the proposal to allow the College of Health Sciences to certify and grant BS and BA degrees for majors in Communicative Disorders, Health Studies, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Psychology. The academic changes presented are within the mission, role and scope of the University of Rhode Island and do not require Council approval.