

To: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

From: Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Date: March 26, 2015

Subject: Notice of Change: The University of Rhode Island proposes to offer a graduate certificate in Community Planning

The University of Rhode Island has notified the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner of its intent to offer a 15-credit graduate certificate in Community Planning.

Rationale

Community planning helps to create viable communities by promoting an integrated approach that consider needs and concerns including affordable housing, environmental concerns, and expanded economic opportunities. The graduate certificate in Community Planning will provide students with advanced instruction and training in community planning and development which will address contemporary planning challenges at the local, regional and global levels in the United States. The certificate will focus on conveying knowledge of the principles and practices of community planning and development specifically in relation to land use, environmental planning, and urban design.

Currently there is no private or public college or university in Rhode Island offering a graduate degree or certificate in community planning. By offering this certificate, the University will be filling the void by preparing competent professionals who have an understanding of land use, environmental planning and urban design. Completion of this certificate will provide the technical skills and knowledge needed for students pursuing careers in government planning agencies, private sector consulting firms, real estate development firms and non-governmental agencies (NGOs). Similarly, those already in these fields can use this certificate to enhance their skills and understanding of issues related to community planning development.

Institutional Considerations

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required for admission to the Community Planning Certificate program. The Community Planning Certificate will be granted in three different ways to attract the most students possible: 1) it will be offered as a stand-alone certificate to students who have completed the course requirements; 2) as a precursor to a graduate degree, where students who wish to continue their studies may have the credits count towards a graduate degree; and 3) if taken concurrently with a graduate degree; matriculating graduate students who satisfy the requirements for the certificate while attempting another degree would be eligible to receive the certificate. The certificate in Community Planning will be available to full-time or part-time students to accommodate both students and working professionals. The degree will not be offered through distance learning at this time. The certificate program will not require any additional courses or faculty.

Interinstitutional Considerations

Currently none of the other public or private institutions in Rhode Island offer a graduate degree or certificate in community planning. The intent of this certificate is to encourage or improve professional knowledge of community planning and development issues.

Students

The school anticipates attracting three types of students to complete this certificate; (1) Students enrolled in similar existing graduate programs, (2) Students with a bachelor's degree who want to learn Community Planning skills to enhance their employability, and (3) Working professionals with bachelor's degrees who want or are required to receive advanced training in the field.

Students who successfully complete the Certificate in Community Planning will be able to bridge into three Master's programs: Master of Public Administration, Master of Environmental Science and Management, and Master of Marine Affairs.

Employment

A typical (median) planner earns a full-time salary of \$74,000 which is an increase of 4.2% from 2012. The great majority (71%) of planners work in public agencies while 21% work in private consulting firms. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment for regional and urban planners nationwide is projected to grow 10% in the decade between 2012 and 2022, which is at the average rate.

Program/Curriculum

The 15-credit, 5-course certificate program includes the following courses with a few options available to best fit students' academic and professional interests. In addition to one required course and six credits of core courses, there are 6-7 credits which may be chosen from a list of elective courses:

Required Course:

CPL 410 - Fundamentals of Community Planning Practice

Core Courses:

CPL 450 - Urban Design

CPL 483 - Land Development

CPL 485 - Environmental Planning

CPL/MAF 516 - Seminar on the Urban Waterfront

CPL 539 - Introduction to Environmental Law

PSC 505 - Public Program Evaluation

Elective Courses:

CPL 538 - Site Planning

CPL 549 - Seminar in Ecological Planning

LAR 444 - Landscape Architecture Design Studio III: Sustainable Design

LAR 445 - Landscape Architecture Design Studio IV

MAF 465 - GIS Applications in Coastal and Marine Management

MAF 475 - Human Responses to Coastal Hazards and Disasters
MAF 564 - Port Operations and Policy
PSC 524 - Seminar in Public Policy Problems

Evaluation

URI anticipates the Community Planning Certificate will have between 1 and 15 applicants per year. They also expect to have between 1 and 10 matriculating students actively pursuing the certificate.

Staff Review

RIOPC staff reviewed the information on the graduate certificate in Community Planning at the University of Rhode Island. The program is within the mission, role and scope of the University and does not require Council approval.

To: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

From: Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

Date: March 26, 2015

Subject: Notice of Change: Replacement of Master's Core Courses with Doctoral Core Courses at the University of Rhode Island

The College of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island is proposing that the Master's Core Courses be replaced with Doctoral Core Courses in the post-baccalaureate entry Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

Rationale

In response to the 2006 recommendation by The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) that the preparation for the nursing advanced practice specializations be taught at the doctoral level by 2015, the College of Nursing developed a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and began admitting students in 2010. In 2013, the College of Nursing began admitting students to a post-baccalaureate entry to the DNP program in response to a national trend and student interest. Students in the post-baccalaureate program complete in the following order 1) the DNP core courses, 2) concentration courses in one of the three Nurse Practitioner (NP) specializations, and 3) the remaining DNP courses. Students choosing this option may obtain an MS after completing the nurse practitioner's concentration and then seek employment as an NP while completing the DNP. Increasingly, students are choosing the post-baccalaureate entry to the DNP and the number of students choosing the master's degree programs is decreasing. The result of this trend is that there are fewer students in the Master's core courses and therefore, faculty are teaching master's core courses with lower enrollment. The College of Nursing is therefore proposing that the first-level master's courses be replaced by the first-level DNP courses. This curriculum revision will help students to meet the AACN recommendation and maximize the enrollment in the DNP core courses. Students who only wish to obtain their Master's degree may stop after they complete their core courses and Master's concentration courses, then graduate with their Master's degree, and not continue on for their DNP.

Curriculum

The chart below lists the Master's courses and the DNP courses that share essential content.

Master's Core Courses	Corresponding DNP Courses
NUR 500-General Study of Nursing Knowledge	NUR 660 - Philosophical & Theoretical Bases of Health Research and NUR 651 - Advanced Methods in Nursing Research I
NUR 505 - Nursing Research	NUR 651 - Advanced Methods in Nursing Research I NUR 652 -Advanced Methods in Nursing Research II
NUR 507 -Theories of Practice for Nursing	NUR 660 – Philosophical and Theoretical Bases of Health Research
NUR 510 – Nursing Leadership in Health Policy Process	HDF 527 – Health Care Policy

A comparison of the Master's core and the DNP core demonstrates that the coverage or focus of the curriculum does not change:

- Master's-level program include 41 credits in administration, 42 credits in education, and 43-46 credits for the nurse practitioner concentrations. Required courses include 14 credits in core courses.
- DNP-level program requires 41 credits in administration, 42 credits in education, and 43-46 credits for nurse practitioner concentrations. Required courses include 13 credits in core courses.
- The one-credit differential between the Master's and DNP core courses will be addressed when NURS 660 is increased from 3 to 4 credits to cover adequately the information now taught in NUR 500. This increase in one credit has already been approved by the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate. Students who want a Masters' degree (whether continuing on for their DNP or stopping with the Master's) will continue to take NUR 520 which is a one-credit course that integrates knowledge from across the program, and includes the comprehensive exam and the major paperwork.

Staff Review

Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner staff reviewed the information on the replacement of Master's core courses with Doctoral core courses in the post-baccalaureate entry Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at the University of Rhode Island. This program change is within the mission, role and scope of the University and does not require Council approval.

To: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education
From: Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education
Date: March 26, 2015
Subject: The University of Rhode Island proposes to offer the Master of Science in Dietetics

The University of Rhode Island (URI) is announcing its intension to offer the Master of Science in Dietetics degree program.

Rationale

Currently, students can become Registered Dietitians with a bachelor's degree, an internship consisting of 1200 hours of supervised experiential learning, and passing a national exam. URI offers two accredited programs: a Bachelor of Science degree program and an internship program at the Master's level.

A consideration of the future of the profession was undertaken by the units that make up the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, which oversees the accreditation, education and credentialing of nutrition and dietetics professionals. An outcome of the *Visioning Report* is that the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics will require the graduate degree by January 2024 for entrance to the profession as Registered Dietitian or Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist. The credentialing requirements include that the graduate degree will require supervised practice that is integrated into the curriculum and passage of the national examination.

The objective of URI's Master's in Dietetics program is to provide graduate-level academic training integrated with an accredited dietetics internship program which will meet the new credentialing requirements established for entry into the profession as Registered Dietitians. URI's internship program currently meets the new requirement; however, nationally, there are 200 internship programs serving 3,000 students annually that are not at the master's level. By partnering with these dietetic internship programs and providing the theoretical learning component, the university can expand enrollment in a graduate healthcare field without the expense of offering the experiential learning component. The program is designed to provide students with clinical care, food service management, and other skills and competencies that the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has established for entry-level practitioners.

Registered dietitians are a high demand/high wage occupation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is a 22% growth rate expected over ten years. The median salary for dietitians in 2012 is \$55,000.

Interinstitutional Considerations

There are no other graduate programs in Dietetics offered in Rhode Island and only nine throughout the northeast (including three in New England at University of Bridgeport, University of St Joseph, and Northeastern). The majority of these programs offer training in nutrition and not dietetics; the only similar degree is offered at SUNY Oneonta which offers a program in Dietetics with a similar design to that proposed by URI.

Program Description

The curriculum of the Master's in Dietetics is designed to integrate with the dietetics internship programs which is a standard for accreditation and for eligibility to sit for the national certifying examination. All of the courses are taught online in seven 7-week terms and can be delivered in 14 months which matches the timeline of the dietetic internships. The curriculum consists of eleven courses for a total 35 credits. Students enroll by cohorts according to their internship rotation and modules can be taken in any order. The Master of Science in Dietetics is a non-thesis program.

Curriculum

NFS 560 - Introduction to Clinical Practice
NFS 561 - Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy in Dietetics I
NFS 562 - Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy in Dietetics II
NFS 563 - Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy in Dietetics III
NFS 564 – Food Service Operations
NFS 565 - Community Nutrition and Health Promotion
NFS 566 – Clinical Nutrition Management

Students

The courses are all offered online and the internships are offered nationally; therefore, the program has the potential of enrolling many students outside of Rhode Island. There are approximately 3,000 students enrolled in internship programs annually and they would be the market for this new degree. Given the entry-level degree will be the Master's degree, it is conceivable that registered dietitians with a bachelor's degree will be interested in enrolling in this program to remain competitive.

Resources

The program will utilize the new funding mechanism established by the University for online programs. The program will receive revenue from the tuition dollars generated and these funds will be used to pay faculty and other operating expenses. Students pay a single program fee rather than tuition by credit which allows the program to be priced competitively. This arrangement is allowable under the Board of Education's *Tuition Policy for Employer Sponsored and Selected Special Learning Programs* (F 15.0).

Faculty

Five faculty members will serve as course managers for the program. They will be responsible for developing the course content for the 11 required courses and all course material. Faculty will be paid to complete an annual update of courses. The courses will be taught by faculty member from the Nutrition and Food Sciences (NFS) department or by professionals in the field under the direction of a NFS faculty member.

Staff Review

RIOPC staff reviewed the proposal for the Master of Science in Dietetics degree program supplied by the University of Rhode Island. The program is within the mission, role and scope of the University and does not require Council approval.

To: Council on Postsecondary Education
From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D
Date: March 26, 2015
Subject: Master of Science in Finance proposed by the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is announcing its intent to offer a Master of Science in Finance.

Rationale

The University of Rhode Island (URI) notes that in an age of increasing financial globalization and competition for employment, it is important for financial professionals to gain a solid foundation in the theory and management of financial systems and institutions. Further, the university states that there is a need for a focused and intensive course of study in areas such as corporate finance, business and security valuations, trading strategies, hedging, and corporate reorganization. The MS in Finance is widely gaining popularity as a business credential due to its shortened timeline of ten courses in one year and in-depth coverage of the field of finance. This degree is intended to assist finance professionals to advance in their careers and many of the topics in the curriculum appear in the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam.

Curriculum

The MS in Finance at URI will be using existing classes with two newly approved courses (MBA 558, MBA 570) to round out the 30 credit degree. The curriculum will be most heavily focused on the theory and analysis of financial systems and markets. The Finance program also does not require a thesis, though students must be able to pass a comprehensive exam towards the end of the degree. The required courses include:

MBA 566	Security and Investment Analysis
MBA 582	Applied Time-Series Methods and Business Forecasting
MAC 504	Financial Statement Analysis and Reporting
MBA 568	Advanced Financial Theory
MBA 569	Advanced International Financial Management
MBA 567	Advanced Portfolio Theory and Security Analysis
BUS 421	Derivative Markets
MBA 558	Fixed Income Analysis
BUS 435	Topics in Insurance
MBA 570	Hedge Fund and Investment Banking

Institutional Information

URI notes that the role of the College of Business is to expand, transmit, and foster the application of business and management knowledge, and adding a graduate finance degree would help the school

accomplish this mission. They also note that having this degree would help to retain top finance undergraduate students from leaving the state to pursue this degree. URI may consider creating a 5-year program which would allow students in the bachelor's degree program to complete the bachelor's and master's in either a 3+2 year plan or a 4+1 year plan, which they feel will greatly increase the attractiveness of the undergraduate program and the College of Business in general.

URI mentions that no new FTEs will be required for the program to be operational. Similarly, no new funding is anticipated to be necessary to cover the MS in Finance program.

Interinstitutional Considerations

URI states that there is no other MS in Finance program in Rhode Island, and therefore this program would increase the overall education opportunities available in the state. However, Johnson and Wales University will begin offering the MS in Finance in the fall of 2015, both online and on campus. URI has stated that their MS in Finance will only be offered on campus at this time. URI, Bryant University and Providence College offer the Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in finance. Bryant University's finance concentration focuses on global finance and Providence College's program focuses on the management side of financial institutions.

Students

The university identifies three types of students who may pursue this degree: (1) Undergraduate students from local universities who are majoring in similar fields and want to remain in-state for their graduate education; (2) International students who desire to pursue a graduate degree in the U.S. and (3) Working professionals who seek a graduate degree to advance their careers. The University points to the presence of Fidelity, as well as many other financial services institutions in Rhode Island, which may have employees interested in a graduate finance degree.

URI is expecting to enroll 20 students in the first year, and anticipates growing the program to 30 students after 3 years.

Employment

Upon graduation, students will have the opportunity to explore career options in investment banks, mutual funds, consulting companies and major corporations. In addition, the MS in Finance will be of assistance to students preparing for their Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) or Certified Financial Planner (CFP) exams. URI mentions that Rhode Island is home to Fidelity as well as many other banking institutions and companies in the financial services industry. Therefore, they state that this program will serve the demand from local professionals.

Staff Review

RIOPC staff reviewed the proposal on the MS in Finance supplied by the University of Rhode Island. The program is within the mission, role and scope of the University and does not require Council approval.