

**TOPIC: COORDINATED DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVAL – BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER (CU-BOULDER) AND MESA STATE COLLEGE (MSC).**

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## **I. SUMMARY**

This item describes a request submitted by the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU-Boulder) to offer a coordinated degree program with Mesa State College (MSC) that would allow MSC students to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from CU-Boulder.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The Commission has authority to develop and approve cooperative programs among state supported institutions of higher education. A coordinated degree program is a single program for more than one college or university to offer jointly with another, characterized by a single curriculum, a common set of admission criteria, a single set of graduation requirements and shared resources; it requires Commission approval. A coordinated program may include collaboration among Colorado public institutions under the same or different governing boards or between a Colorado public institution and an accredited out-of-state, private or international college or university.

The approval process for a new coordinated degree program proposal requires a full proposal and memorandum of understanding. The institutions and governing boards must prepare a proposal and negotiate a memorandum of understanding that specifies:

- has A common defined curriculum;
- A common accreditation and program review process;
- A defined fiscal infrastructure;
- Curriculum design and the curricular components that the participating institutions will deliver;
- Admission process and criteria;
- Graduation requirements;
- Resources needed to support the program, including faculty, library, student affairs, physical facilities, telecommunications and a plan to finance the program as proposed;
- Program administration responsibilities;
- Plans for program recognition for financial aid eligibility;
- Plans for coordinated accreditation or program review;

- An organizational chart diagramming relationships among participating institutions;  
and
- A mechanism for communicating between programs and institutions.

The University of Colorado at Boulder has submitted a request to offer a coordinated degree program with Mesa State College. The proposal outlines a partnership between the CU-Boulder and Mesa State College in which Mesa students will be able to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from CU-Boulder. The complete four-year program will be offered in residence at MSC in Grand Junction, Colorado. The first two years of classes, including supporting math, science, humanities, social sciences, writing, and basic engineering classes are offered by MSC. Upper level mechanical engineering classes are offered by CU-Boulder at MSC in Grand Junction.

Offering MSC students the opportunity to complete the Mechanical Engineering degree program in residence provides mechanical engineering students the unique option of small class size and more contact with faculty while experiencing the quality of a CU-Boulder engineering program.

### **III. ANALYSIS**

The University of Colorado at Boulder and Mesa State College have submitted information required by the Coordinated Academic Degree Policy. Staff has conducted the required review of the institutions' materials and finds that the proposal meets all but the following requirement:

- Organizational chart diagramming relationships among participating institutions.

DHE staff recommends approval of the coordinated degree program in Mechanical Engineering offered by The University of Colorado at Boulder and Mesa State College conditioned on the submission of an organizational chart diagramming the relationships among participating institutions.

### **IV. RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Commission approve the coordinated degree program in Mechanical Engineering offered by The University of Colorado at Boulder and Mesa State College conditioned on the submission of an organizational chart diagramming the relationships among participating institutions.**

**V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

§ 23-1-108(3) C.R.S.

**VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS**

**The coordinated degree program proposal is attached.**