

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
DEGREE IN APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE AT  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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## **I. SUMMARY**

The Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System has submitted a proposal for a Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Science within the Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) department. The Ph.D. is designed to prepare students in the basic and applied aspects of human development and for professional positions as teachers, researchers and analysts.

Department of Higher Education staff supports the proposed Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Science.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from the Colorado State University proposal for the doctoral degree in Applied Developmental Science:

### **EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR THE PROGRAM:**

The regional and national needs for experts in Applied Developmental Science are growing and this Ph.D. program would produce graduates who would be well trained to address a number of important social and societal problems. Evidence of need includes:

- Uniformly positive survey results about job prospects for new Ph.D.s in the social and behavioral sciences.
- High employment rates (100%) that are expected to remain stable for at least 15 years because of the large number of professionals who will be retiring from academia and the human services, and greater opportunities for Applied Developmental Science specialists outside of academia.
- A growth rate of 28.4% in employment for academic and scientific positions within the next eight years. This growth rate is second only to the social assistance and health care sector.
- A high demand for research-trained professionals in applied areas such as program design and evaluation, social assistance, and health care is projected to grow faster and add more jobs than any other industry super sector.

### **EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND**

The graduate studies coordinator in HDFS has received numerous inquiries on a consistent basis for the past five years and includes inquiries from students in the United States as well as students abroad. Between 1991 and 2001, 30.9% of students who received master's degrees in HDFS applied to doctoral programs. 96.7% of these applicants were accepted into one of the programs of their choice. Almost all said they would have rather completed their doctoral studies at CSU.

### **DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE**

Colorado State University is the only institution of higher education in the Colorado offering a degree program in Human Development and Family Studies at the baccalaureate and master's levels. Based on CSU's reviews of the existing programs in Applied Developmental Science, the proposed Ph.D. program would be the only such program between Minneapolis and the Pacific Coast.

### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

The Department staff have reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-1-121. The program meets all performance measures.

### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Applied Developmental Science to be offered by Colorado State University.**

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. 23-1-121