

TOPIC: COORDINATED DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVAL – MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK OFFERED BY FORT LEWIS COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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I. SUMMARY

Fort Lewis College (FLC) has submitted a program proposal request to offer a coordinated degree program with the University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work (DU-GSSW). Participating students will complete a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology or Sociology from FLC and a Masters of Social Work from DU-GSSW.

II. BACKGROUND

The Commission has authority to develop and approve cooperative programs among 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.

Fort Lewis College has submitted a request to offer a coordinated degree program with the University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work. The proposal outlines a partnership between the institutions in which Fort Lewis College students will be able to earn a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Denver. The complete program will be offered in the Durango area.

Working together the two institutions have developed a 3 + 2 program that allows Fort Lewis students who follow the appropriate degree plan to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology or Sociology from Fort Lewis College and a Masters of Social Work degree from University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work. The two degrees will be earned during or at the end of a five year coordinated program that includes three years of Fort Lewis College courses and two years of DU-GSSW courses. The Fort Lewis College Bachelor of Arts degree will be completed at the end of the fourth year and the Master of Social Work from DU-GSSW degree will completed at the end of the fifth year.

The Board of Trustees for Fort Lewis College approved the Collaborative Degree Program at its regular meeting on June 9, 2009.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Fort Lewis College has 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 the statutory requirements.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the coordinated degree program between Fort Lewis College and University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.

VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The coordinated degree program proposal is attached.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§ 23-1-108(3) C.R.S.