

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)
DEGREE IN APPLIED SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS**

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I. SUMMARY

The Board of Regents of the University of Colorado has submitted a proposal for a Ph.D. in Applied Science to be offered at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS). The Ph.D. is designed to prepare students in the applied sciences through an umbrella degree program that includes disciplines in Mathematics, Physics and Applied Bioscience. The program will offer students flexibility to emphasize a particular discipline or to follow a more interdisciplinary track, with coursework, qualifying exams and the required thesis appropriate to the track that the student chooses.

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

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the UCCS proposal for a doctoral degree in Applied Science.

The proposed program fits within the UCCS mission to serve the Pikes Peak Region and southern Colorado. The proposed degree provides a needed connection between scientific education at UCCS and specific training for leadership positions in technical employment and research institutions in Colorado. UCCS is working with other southern colleges on the Southern Colorado Innovation Strategy to enhance economic growth in the southern part of the state. This degree proposal fits with that strategy and supports the efforts of the UCCS Research Initiative to build sponsored research activity on campus. The program will help solidify UCCS's position as a research institution.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:

The Ph.D in Applied Science supports the role and mission of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The statutory mission states:

The Colorado Springs campus of the University of Colorado shall be a comprehensive Baccalaureate university with selective admission standards. The Colorado Springs campus shall offer liberal arts and sciences, business, engineering, health sciences, and teacher preparation undergraduate degree programs, and a selected number of master's and doctoral degree programs.
C.R.S. 23-20-101(c)

The proposed program supports the UCCS Vision Statement, which states:

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will provide ... outstanding research and creative work that serve our community, state, and nation, and result in our recognition as the premier comprehensive, regional research university in the United States.

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND

In determining demand for the Ph.D. program, UCCS considered graduate students currently enrolled in the existing Master of Sciences (MSc) program in the fields of biology and physics and graduate students in the Mathematics Department. The Biology, Mathematics and Physics departments surveyed their students on the likelihood that they would enroll in a PhD of Applied Science program if offered at UCCS. The results of those surveys indicate a solid cohort of 27 students with a strong interest in the proposed Ph.D. program and more who said they might be interested in the program.

DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE

The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs would be the only institution of higher education in Colorado to offer a Ph.D. program in Applied Science. Based on UCCS's reviews of other programs in the country, it is clear there is a well-established tradition of Ph.D. programs in Applied Science. The combination of disciplines proposed at UCCS is quite typical for such a program.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-1-107. The program meets all performance measures.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The program proposal materials are attached.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-107