

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN
ASIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN
COLORADO**

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I. SUMMARY

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) has submitted a proposal to offer a baccalaureate degree in Asian Studies. This proposed program will develop the knowledge of Asian languages, history, literatures and the arts. Students will be well versed in understanding each component and how they affect and make up Asia's current dynamics.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the University of Northern Colorado's request:

The program fosters knowledge and study of Asian issues, as well as national and local diversity by inclusion of courses on the Asian Diaspora. Courses in Asian civilizations, literature, history, and the arts train students in Asian culture and develop their cultural competence. Because the program requires study of Asian languages and encourages study abroad to one of UNC's direct exchange partner institutions in Asian countries, this program prepares student to work effectively with "diverse populations." Students completing this program will have linguistic competence in at least one Asian language, and an understanding in Asian cultures, literature, art and history.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports the role and mission of the University of Northern Colorado. The statutory mission states:

There is hereby established a university at Greeley to be known as the university of northern Colorado. The university shall be a comprehensive baccalaureate and specialized graduate research university with selective admission standards. The university of Northern Colorado shall be the primary institution for undergraduate and graduate degree programs for educational personnel preparation in the state of Colorado. The university shall offer masters and doctoral programs primarily in the field of education. C.R.S. 23-40-101

COSTS AND RESOURCES

This program uses existing resources and requires no additional faculty. It will involve faculty that either specialize in or have research or teaching interests in Asian

civilizations and cultures. This program falls in line with the provost's desire to create interdisciplinary programs that require no new resources but serve the students' interests.

DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado State University and the University of Colorado Denver offer similar programs. The proposed Asian Studies degree at UNC requires 61 credits in Asia-related courses in which CU only required 40 credits, CSU requires 21 and UCD requires 15 credits. The proposed UNC program requires 28 credits/4 years of Asian languages to be taken in either one or more Asian languages, whereas CU requires 15 credits/3 semesters, UCD requires 5 credits/1 semester and CSU does not require language courses. The proposed UNC program requires a senior thesis; among other programs, only CU requires a senior thesis.

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. §23-5-129(6) (b). The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Baccalaureate Degree in Asian Studies is consistent with the University of Northern Colorado's campus role and mission. Staff recommend that the Commission approve this degree.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129(6) (b)