

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 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 International Affairs. This proposed program will be housed in the Political Science department and will allow students to develop expertise from several disciplines and practices integrating knowledge from economic, social, cultural and political areas.

II. BACKGROUND

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

This proposed program will develop a broad understanding of international issues through the study of international political economics. Statewide and national trends all point to the increasing globalization of the economy and increasing global environmental, human rights, and political challenges. The program will be interdisciplinary in nature and will promote the development of analytical, research, writing and language skills that are necessary to think critically and reflect upon contemporary international issues.

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

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND

Demand already exists, as demonstrate by enrollment in the International Studies major which will be subsumed into the proposed degree. We project substantial growth after requirements are streamlined. Each of the main universities in the state has a major that is far simpler than our current program, and each enrolls substantial numbers. CU-

Boulder's major, with more than 900 students, is one of the largest and fastest growing majors on its campus in the past ten years. CSU currently has 263 majors in its program. CU-Denver has 250 majors. We estimate that as many as 30-40 UNC students will graduate each year with this degree once the new major is fully established.

DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE

Each of the major institutions in the state has an international affairs or international studies major. Our program is intended to meet this trend. Each program contains a foreign language requirement and an array of courses from a variety of liberal arts disciplines. While the similarities outweigh the differences, each major maintains a solid balance between providing a firm basis in required courses along with broad opportunities for students to choose those courses most relevant to their own personal, academic, and career interests. Most important, each program reflects an emphasis on achieving optimal, though certainly in no way restrictive, coherence within the framework of pursuing a degree that entails a wide variety of interdisciplinary studies. Overall, students will have a broad array of options from an interdisciplinary menu of courses that compliment the study of international affairs.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Department staff has 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 International Affairs 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)