

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, POLICY, AND ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (UCDAMC) to offer a Master of Science in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from UCDAMC's proposal:

The proposed Master of Science program in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration will provide graduate-level training in health services research. This degree, offered through the Graduate School, will be an integral part of the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) academic plan. The proposed degree program provides training in the scientific foundations of the multidisciplinary field of health services research, which studies the interplay of social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affecting access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and quantity and quality of life. While health services research is grounded in theory, the discipline exists to perform research that can be applied by physicians, nurses, health managers, and administrators, and other people who make decisions or deliver care in the health care system. Through developing sophisticated analytic and research skills, as well as an understanding of the environmental, social and ethical factors that contribute to health and wellness in the community, scientists trained in this program will be prepared for careers in health policy research and development and the evaluation of new approaches to improve public health.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree program proposal supports the role and mission of the University of Colorado Denver. The statutory mission states:

The Denver campus of the university of Colorado shall be an urban comprehensive undergraduate and graduate research university with selective admission standards. The Denver campus shall offer baccalaureate, master's, and a limited number of doctoral degree programs, emphasizing those that serve the needs of the Denver metropolitan area. The Denver campus has

statewide authority to offer graduate programs in public administration and exclusive authority in architecture and planning. C.R.S., §23-20-101 (1)(b).

EVIDENCE OF NEED

The national shortage of public health professionals is well documented in reports from the Institute of Medicine (Institute of Medicine. 2003. *Who Will Keep the Public Healthy? Educating Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century*. K. Gebbie, L. Rosenstock, and L.M. Hernandez., Eds. National Academies Press, Washington, DC 290 pp.). This program trains scientists to work in public health and retain them for the state's public health workforce. Students who leave the state for their education often do not return after completing the degree, contributing to the shortage of trained professionals in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. There is an increasing demand for individuals with this training locally, nationally, and internationally. Locally, this program is expected to fill a critical need for qualified staff scientists at the Anschutz Medical Campus and within the expanding biosciences industry along the Front Range.

DUPLICATION

This program does not duplicate any degree programs offered within the Colorado School of Public Health or at other institutions of higher education in the region. The M.S. is a research-based program that is distinct from other programs within the Masters in Public Health offered by the Colorado School of Public Health.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129 (6) (b), department staff finds that UCDAMC's proposed Master of Science in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration is consistent with its statutory role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Master of Science in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration proposed by the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus.

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) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.