

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN SERVICES AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-GLOBAL CAMPUS

PREPARED BY: IAN MACGILLIVRAY, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval of Colorado State University-Global Campus's (CSU-Global) proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Human Services (BSHS) degree.

II. BACKGROUND

CSU-Global's proposal for the Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree is summarized as follows, as excerpted from the institution's proposal:

Overall growth in this field is considered high with an expected increase from 2008 to 2018 in the following job areas: probation officers (19%), social workers (16%), and counselors (18%). Because of its special relationship with the Colorado Community College System and numerous transfer agreements creating pipelines from Associate degrees to its four-year programs, CSU-Global is prepared to meet this demand with this bachelor's degree completion program (45 semester hours of credit in major courses towards a 120 credit undergraduate degree).

The interdisciplinary major discipline of the Bachelor of Science in Human Services (BSHS) degree program provides an introduction to human service programs that meet community and social welfare needs among varied populations. The degree will prepare students for a variety of human service careers in individual, family, group, organization, and community settings. Students will be provided with the opportunity to think critically while learning to help individuals cope with personal challenges. Students will gain abilities in program implementation, client interviewing, data gathering, counseling, consulting, and case management. Upon completion of the degree, students will have the knowledge and skills necessary to work in a range of human service settings in both the private and public sector. Students may also consider graduate study in social work, counseling, criminology, psychology, or sociology.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports the role and mission of CSU-Global, which reads, in part:

CSU Global Campus is a baccalaureate and graduate on-line university with the mission in Colorado of offering upper division baccalaureate degree completion programs for nontraditional students in partnership with the Colorado Community College system and selected master-level graduate programs. [C.R.S. 23-31.3-101]

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

There are currently only 15 other higher education institutions offering similar programs nationwide. This degree program will include an option for a specialization to expand knowledge in related areas such as Public and Non-Profit Management, Healthcare Management, Criminal Justice Management, Criminology, and Organizational Leadership. Industry demand for the Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree program has been evaluated through a CSU-Global Campus sponsored market research firm and through national industry career growth projections:

- U.S. Department of Labor (2008) projections estimate that growth in human services will accelerate faster than average industry growth through 2018. Career areas and salary ranges where human services education is relevant include:
 - Probation officers: 19% growth with average pay of \$45,910;
 - Corrections officers: 9% growth with average pay of \$38,380;
 - Eligibility interviewers (case workers): 9% growth with average pay of \$39,310;
 - Social workers: 16% growth with average pay of \$39,530
 - Counselors (requires additional graduate study): 18% growth with average pay of \$51,050;
- Google Search volume impressions per month: 71,540 (market research, 2011); and
- 3,601 degrees conferred in 2009, positive growth (market research, 2011).

DUPLICATION

Within the CSU System there are currently no baccalaureate level programs exclusively oriented toward education in human services. CSU in Fort Collins has a Human Development and Family Studies degree program. Both CSU campuses in Fort Collins and Pueblo offer the Bachelor of Social Work degree, but these programs are more traditional in nature, have a specific focus area which makes these programs

less general, and are not offered online. No Colorado public institutions offer a bachelor of science in human services in an online instructional format, though Metropolitan State University of Denver does offer the degree in a traditional instructional format.

IV. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU-Global's proposed Bachelor of Science in Human Services (BSHS) degree is consistent with the institution's role and mission.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approval of CSU-Global's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Human Services (BSHS) degree.

VI. 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.