

TOPIC: COF ELIGIBILITY FOR AN EXTENDED STUDIES PROGRAM FOR FY2014

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

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval of College Opportunity Fund (COF) eligibility for a B.S. Nursing offered through Extended Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. The program will be taught at Arapahoe Community College's campus. The Commission usually approves these programs in one batch during the summer, and did so at its June 7, 2013 meeting (agenda item II, A) but this program is a late request.

II. BACKGROUND

College Opportunity Fund (COF) eligibility for off-campus (Extended Studies) undergraduate programs may be approved by the Commission per C.R.S. §23-1-109(5) and §23-18-202(5)(d)(I)(f). CCHE Policy Section IV: Statewide Extended Studies, subsection 5.02, states that, "Up to one-half of one percent of the total estimated state eligible [COF] credit hours will be allocated to off-campus programs." Following this policy, Department staff collected proposals from Extended Studies units to recommend to the Commission for approval, in consultation with the Statewide Extended Studies designated officers. The Department recommends Commission approval only for programs that result in the completion of a degree or other credential. Other considerations include how the program will help meet the State of Colorado's workforce development needs; the extent to which the program is directed at underserved populations; and justification of any duplication of a similar program offered by another institution in the same geographic area.

III. DEGREE PROGRAM FOR PROPOSED FY2014 COF ELIGIBILITY

Staff recommends approval of the following institution's off-campus program and requested FTE for COF eligibility:

Metropolitan State University of Denver (15 COF FTE)

Offered at Arapahoe Community College

- B.S. in Nursing (15 COF FTE)

IV. STAFF ANALYSIS

Per CCHE Policy Section IV: Statewide Extended Studies, “Up to one-half of one percent of the total estimated state eligible [COF] credit hours will be allocated to off-campus programs.” The Department’s Division of Budget and Finance reports that COF has been appropriated at 140,605 FTE. The amount allocated to off-campus programs is 703 FTE. The institutions’ previous off-campus requested 542 FTE for COF eligibility for FY2014 was approved by the Commission at its June 7, 2013 meeting, leaving a balance of 161. The proposed program’s request for 15 FTE does not exceed the balance. Moreover, Department staff and Statewide Extended Studies designated officers verify that the program is designed to help meet the State of Colorado’s workforce development needs; extend opportunities to underserved populations; and are justifiable in light of any duplication of similar programs offered by another institution in the same geographic area.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the off-campus program and requested FTE for COF eligibility for FY2014 listed above.

VI. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-109(5) establishes the Commission’s role in overseeing of state funding for off-campus instruction: *The Commission shall set policies, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, which define which courses and programs taught outside the geographic boundaries of the campus may be eligible for general fund support. The commission may include funding for those courses and programs in its system wide funding recommendations to the general assembly.*