

MATTERS FOR CONSENT:

New Certificate Program: Institute of Cannabis Research Certificate of Foundational

Studies in Cannabis

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOVED, that the CSU Board of Governors approve the request from College of Science,

Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics to establish a new Institute of Cannabis

Research Certificate in Foundational Studies in Cannabis. If approved, this certificate

will be effective in fall 2025.

EXPLANATION:

Presented in accordance with Policy 302 by Dr. Gail Mackin, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

This program provides new opportunities for students to earn a certificate in Foundational Cannabis Studies from the Institute of Cannabis Research. The target enrollment for the program is primarily non-traditional students new to CSU Pueblo with an interest in cannabis as it relates to their professional engagement with cannabis in medicine, public health, agronomy, chemical analysis, research, and research regulations. The program would also educate anyone with a lay interest in cannabis for medicinal or other purposes. The objective is to increase the number of informed participants in the cannabis workplace and society who will address the various aspects of cannabis from an objective, unbiased, and scientifically founded perspective.

1. Specific Identifiers:

- a. Name of Program: **Institute of Cannabis Research Certificate of Foundational Studies in Cannabis**
- b. Degree Type: **Undergraduate Certificate**
- c. Recommended CIP code: **24.0101**
- d. College, School, Dept.: **College of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics, Department of Chemistry**

2. Overview of Program

The Certificate in Institute of Cannabis Research Certificate of Foundational Studies in Cannabis is an undergraduate program to be available in an online format through CSU

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Pueblo Extended Studies. This certificate provides an entry level curriculum of 16 credits for students who wish to learn about 1) the scientific basis for the complex regulatory environment that controls legal cannabis research, production, and distribution Colorado and the US, 2) the utilization of hemp materials for manufacturing, 3) basic principles of cannabinoid testing, 4) the basic physiology of cannabis plant growth and phytocannabinoid production, and 5) health impacts, both negative and potentially positive, of cannabis use as a medicine and with adult use.

3. Evidence of Need

As part of the ICR's governance by its Colorado state-appointed board the board has assigned the task of creating this program to the ICR. The ICR and its board answer directly to the Governor and State legislature of Colorado in partnership with the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). Moreover, since the inception of the ICR, Extended Studies, as one of its partners, has received multiple requests per year for an online cannabis certificate as the cannabis industry continues to mature nation-wide. Having this program online allows for a wide range of potential non-traditional students that are not current CSU Pueblo students to be enrolled from anywhere in the world.

The ICR currently engages a large world-wide academic and professional constituency of cannabis stakeholders who look the ICR as the leader in disseminating current scientific knowledge which guides cannabis activities in our society across a spectrum of topics. The ICR's network of over 6,000 individuals and organizations not only serves as a recruiting base for the proposed program, but also has demonstrated strong demand for the program through regular engagement with the ICR's pair of monthly webinar series, annual Cannabis Research Conference, Journal of Cannabis Research, newsletters, and other professional collaborative interactions.

4. Student Population in Five Years and Profile:

We anticipate enrollment by primarily non-traditional students who are either already engaged in the cannabis workplace or general citizenry with an interest. The program may also serve as a recruiting conduit to our Cannabis Studies minor and the Cannabis Biology and Chemistry Degree programs. Anticipated enrollment over a five-year period is 100 students with growth from 10 to 30 students over the first 5 years.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Projected Certificate awards	10	15	20	25	30

5. Special Undergraduate Admissions Standards

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None.

6. Curriculum and Program Outcomes

Course	Title	Credits
ICR 101	The Scientific Basis for Cannabis Regulation	3
ICR 102	Basic Human Physiology of Cannabis Consumption	3
ICR 103	Introduction to Analytical Analysis of Cannabis	3
ICR 104	Agriculture & Cultivation of Cannabis	3
ICR 105	Introduction to Hemp Materials	3
ICR 106	Introduction to Cannabis Science & Research	1
	Total Credits	16

7. Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing this certificate will:

- Understand that there is a complex regulatory environment that controls legal cannabis research, production, and distribution Colorado and the US.
- Have a better understanding of the utilization of hemp materials for manufacturing.
- Understand the basic principles of cannabinoid testing.
- Understand the basic physiology of cannabis plant growth and phytocannabinoid production.
- Understand the health impacts, both negative and potentially positive of cannabis use in its various contexts as medicine or as legalized recreational drug.

8. Faculty resources (current and required)

ICR start-up funding has been provided to CSU Pueblo Extended Studies (ES) in the amount of \$15,000.00 to launch this certificate and the ES model is anticipated to earn net revenue from enrollment after initial implementation. If the Certificate drives enrollment in these courses beyond their current capacity, additional adjunct professors would be required and funded from tuition revenues.

9. Library, Facilities, Equipment, etc. (current and required)

Current resources are sufficient. No additional resources are required.

10. Budget

ES and the ICR will collaborate to promote this program, including the ES marketing partner of Techint Labs, to market programs. ES and Techint Labs would target all ICR partners, all former attendees of the ICR conference, all of the over 6,000 individuals on the ICR contact list, cannabis related companies, cannabis regulators, and cannabis testing firms as avenues for recruitment and enrollment once it is approved. Budget for marketing is included in the start-up funding provided by the ICR.