

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: "Rehabilitation[sic] -Health Informatics-Five-Year-Application-v5.1-08-25-2014.docx"

Summary of Proposal:

To provide highly competent graduates for the evolving, competitive high-tech health sciences and information workforce, the Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and the Indiana University School of Informatics and Computing, Department of BioHealth Informatics, propose a five-year, integrated BS/MS degree program for both a BS in Health Sciences and an MS in Health Informatics. Students will enter the BS Health Sciences program per the program's admissions criteria. The students will be made aware of the option to pursue the combined degree program during their first year and advised appropriately should they wish to pursue it. During the third year (sixth semester), highly qualified and motivated students will either self-inquire or be advised to apply to the combined degree program. A total of 146 credits hours will be required for the integrated program, compared to 120 and 36 (total of 156) for the separate BS and MS degrees, respectively. Twelve of the fourteen credits required as electives for the BS in Health Sciences portion will be replaced by the MS in Health Informatics requirements. The initial number of students in this combined program will be five with the expectation that up to ten will be enrolled at a time.

The combined degree proposal utilizes current resources and courses already in place for the existing BS and MS degrees at IUPUI. Evaluations for the BS/MS program shall be reviewed and modified each year by a joint committee composed of members of the IUPUI Department of Health Sciences and the Department of BioHealth Informatics. Two formal and external evaluations of the BS/MS shall take place during year three and again during year five.

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

The goals for when and how many to recruit to this program are clear. The overall degree requirement are clear; however, please clarify in the proposal text section (page 8) how there are 146 credits total required when 12 of the original 14 elective credits will be removed from the 120 credits of the BS portion and then added to the 36 credits for the MS portion (calculate 144 total). It would be helpful to make the "BS Health Sciences/ MS HI, 5-Year Plan of Study" table on one page.

The evaluation plan can be more specific and expanded upon to state the goals to be measured. What is the goal for how many students are expected to complete this combined degree compared to those who do the degrees separately? Will job placement be followed and compared to the separate degree paths? Should other stakeholders be a part of the review committees (e.g., Regenstrief or IUSM), or provide examples of the external reviewers?

For the rationale, how many students have done the BS in Health Sciences and MS in Health Informatics separately and did they provide feedback on their job placement or career advancement? Has any other university done a dual program like this and, if so, what were their outcomes?

Minor comment: On page 8, please specify that the BS in Health Sciences program admissions committee will participate in the admissions process ["Admission will be selective: the Graduate Admissions Committee..."]. Will there be a representative from the SOIC/Health Informatics program at this stage?

2. Is the program academically sound?

Utilizes existing degree programs for a seamless transition from the BS to MS degree. There are clear requirements for GPA and course grades with those who do not meet those expectations are removed from the program, or not allowed to continue on to the MS portion.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

States that accelerated programs will utilize the resources and courses already in place for the two separate degrees; therefore, none are needed.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

*The SOIC has other accelerated programs that can be helpful:
<http://soic.iupui.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters/>*

There are two other accelerated dual degree health-related programs, but not directly related to the proposed combined degree:

- 1. Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree with an Environmental Health Science major and the MPH degree with an Environmental Health concentration
(<http://pbhealth.iupui.edu/index.php/prospective-students/undergraduate/accelerated-bsph-mp-program/>)*
- 2. B.S. Health Services Management/Master of Health Administration (<http://pbhealth.iupui.edu/index.php/prospective-students/undergraduate/accelerated-bshsm-mha-program/>)*

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

Accept, with clarifications requested.