

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

**Reviewer:**

**School:**

**Department:**

**Email:**

**Date Reviewed:**

**Documents Reviewed:** Letter from Dr. Queener dated April 2, 2007  
Proposal: PhD in Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

### **Summary of Proposal:**

This proposal is for a new 90-credit PhD program at IUPUI in "Health and Rehabilitation Sciences." The proposal is an offshoot from a multi-year strategic plan within the **School of Health and Rehabilitation** which aims to position itself as a national leader in this emerging field. The proposal clearly spells out connections to both national priorities and to the IU Life Sciences Strategic Plan. The proposed curriculum consists of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences Core (12 credits), Health & Rehabilitation Sciences Concentration (30 credits), a Research Core (42-44 credits which includes a 6 credit research practicum and 19 dissertation credits), and Electives (6 credits). In conjunction with Graduate School guidelines, up to 30 of these credits can be transferred in from another graduate degree. Three concentration areas are identified: Pathophysiology & Impairment, Functional Limitations, and Health Services. These 3 areas are consistent with research classifications identified by the Institute of Medicine. In addition to a 6 credit hour research practicum, students will complete a 3 credit hour teaching practicum. The anticipated enrollment is 3 students per year beginning in Spring 2008 with a program capacity of 10. New faculty resources needed to launch the program include one senior faculty member. The curriculum includes 9 new courses (that could serve as electives for students in other graduate programs). The proposal states that there are no comparable programs in the region or state, although similar programs are under development in Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois.

The proposal is fairly comprehensive and includes: program objectives, acceptance criteria for applicants, anticipated outcomes and opportunities for graduates, course descriptions, a sample plan of study, a list of core, supporting, and affiliated faculty, a description of ongoing faculty-led research projects, a description of the planning process for the proposed PhD program, and a plan for program implementation and evaluation of the proposed program.

### **1. Are the goals clear and achievable?**

The overall goal of the proposed program is “to develop scholars who, through their leadership and original research, will contribute to the knowledge base of health and rehabilitation sciences.” The proposal spells out the mission of the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, the objectives of the Indiana Center for Rehabilitation Sciences and Engineering Research, and the knowledge, value and skills learning objectives for program graduates. The program goals are spelled out and seem to be clear and achievable.

### **2. Is the program academically sound?**

Overall, I think the proposed program is academically sound. I did have some questions about the proposed curriculum that I would like to have clarified:

- Where does a 12 credit external minor fit into the proposed curriculum? An external minor is not mentioned among the 90 credit hours listed on pps 1-2.
- I was not clear about the rationale for the Teaching Practicum to be part of the Core Curriculum in H&RS. Also, will students be expected to start teaching without the benefit of instruction about teaching before taking on instructor responsibilities? I did notice that the proposal includes a description of the PPF program. Will students be required to participate in PPF before doing the Teaching Practicum? Also, will the Teaching Practicum be required for all students (even those who may be solely interested in a research career?)
- I wondered if a course on health policy and/or rehabilitation practices was needed as part of the core. How about a philosophy of science course?
- The proposed number of credits seems to add up to 92, while only 90 are required by the Grad School for a PhD.

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

The School of H&RS has been in the process of hiring new doctoral faculty over the past four years in preparation for carrying out their strategic plan, including the establishment of a PhD program. They have hired 15 new faculty members since 2003, 10 of whom have secured external funding or completed post-

doctoral research training. Instead of undercutting other key missions of the unit, the establishment of a PhD program should complement and enhance the research mission of SHRS. One issue to consider is if there will be sufficient faculty with endorsement to chair dissertation committees to serve as Dissertation Chairs (the language "full member" of the Graduate Faculty should be updated on p. 14).

**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 proposal mentions collaborative coursework and research opportunities with a number of health-related disciplines at IUPUI. I recommend that the program also explore opportunities for collaboration with the IU School of Social Work (which offers a health concentration in its Masters program and an external minor in its PhD program), Public Health, and SPEA.

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

The proposed PhD program in Health & Rehabilitation Sciences seems like a natural extension of the ongoing efforts of the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences. There seem to be many avenues for collaborative and interdisciplinary research for incoming students through the Indiana Center for Rehabilitation Sciences and Engineering Research. I recommend approval of the program.