



Item: AS: A-1

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF NEW DEGREE PROGRAM – BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HEALTH SCIENCES (CIP 51.0000)**

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**PROPOSED Board ACTION**

Approval of a new degree program, Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences (CIP 51.0000).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science proposes a new undergraduate degree program, Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences. This program will provide a broad-based interdisciplinary focus designed for students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. The degree is composed of courses that are currently offered at FAU with the exception of three courses being developed in health science. The interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum will enable students to take relevant coursework in various colleges and departments across Florida Atlantic University, in an effort to broaden their understanding of factors that both positively and negatively impact the health care system, patients, and practitioners.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

If approved, degree will begin in Fall 2017

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The final five year projected program costs will be \$242,751.

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**Supporting Documentation: New Degree Program Proposal**

**Presented by: Dr. Russell Ivy, Associate Provost for Programs and Assessment  
Dr. Janet Blanks, Interim Dean of Charles E. Schmidt College of Science**

**Phone: 561.297.2353**

**Board of Governors, State University System of Florida**

**Request to Offer a New Degree Program**

(Please do not revise this proposal format without prior approval from Board staff)

<b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>FALL 2017</b>
<b>University Submitting Proposal</b>	<b>Proposed Implementation Term</b>
<b>Charles E. Schmidt College of Science</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary/Interprofessional Science</b>
<b>Name of College(s) or School(s)</b>	<b>Name of Department(s)/ Division(s)</b>
<b>Health Science</b>	<b>BA Health Science</b>
<b>Academic Specialty or Field</b>	<b>Complete Name of Degree</b>
<b>51.0000</b>	
<b>Proposed CIP Code</b>	

**Program Description and Relationship to System-Level Goals**

This proposal will provide an innovative approach to a Bachelor’s degree in Health Science. This degree will consist of a core group of classes grounded in the basic natural sciences. The degree will include concentration areas in healthy aging studies (an FAU pillar); women’s health; global/environmental/public health; pre-clinical practice; science; and behavioral/mental health. Students will have access to clinical *observation* opportunities and other co-curricular activities (lab experiences, internships, research). Completion of the degree requires a minimum of 120 credits.

Credit Totals:

64 credits in the major (26 upper division credits)

19 credits of upper division free electives

8 credits foreign language requirement

21 credits of Foundation coursework (non-overlapping with major requirements)

The degree will provide a broad-based interdisciplinary focus designed for students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. The degree is composed of courses that are currently offered at FAU with the exception of three courses being developed in health science. These courses will introduce students to foundational concepts related to health and health care. This interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum will enable students to take relevant coursework in various colleges and departments across Florida Atlantic University, in an effort to broaden their understanding of factors that both positively and negatively impact the health care system, patients, and practitioners. In addition, we will provide students with an understanding of how professionals from various fields of practice (medicine, pharmacy, social work, nursing, etc.) interact in a collaborative manner.

FAU undergraduate students seeking a career in health care must develop the knowledge and skills necessary to collaborate with others in team-based learning settings. Incorporating team-based learning will provide a unique advantage to FAU undergraduate students, making this degree distinctly different from other Health Science degrees in the SUS.

The BA in Health Science aligns with the university and SUS mission to increase degree productivity and the number of degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis, specifically *Critical Workforce: Health*. This degree will increase access and degree completion for students, including students from traditionally underrepresented groups and returning adult students. There are many options for students to engage with the local community, thereby increasing the level of community and business engagement. Additionally, one of the performance indicators evaluates Bachelor's degrees awarded in STEM and Health as a percent of total Bachelor's awarded. This new degree program will aid FAU in those figures.

The BA Health Science will address the need for more healthcare professionals in the following ways:

1) This degree will incorporate the required pre-requisite courses for the FAU accelerated post-baccalaureate nursing program. After the fall of 2016, traditional nursing track will no longer exist at FAU and students will have 3 options to enter nursing:

- A) Freshman direct admit (100 students only)
- B) Accelerated Post-Baccalaureate Track (admission cap ranges)
- C) RN to BSN Track

The BA Health Science degree will be a recommended option for students that do not qualify for freshman direct admit but may be admissible to FAU and become viable candidates for the accelerated post-baccalaureate track.

2) This degree can prepare students for additional or graduate level training in clinical and non-clinical careers (public health, pharmaceutical sales, physical therapy, etc.) where expansion is necessary.

The degree will be based on the Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton Campus, with the possibility that some of the courses will be offered on the partner campuses and online. We anticipate approximately 80% of the Health Science 1, 2 and 3 courses will be offered online.

### Fiscal Implications

**Headcount (HC) and full-time equivalent (FTE) student estimates of majors for Years 1 through 5 along with program costs for the first and the fifth years of implementation.**

Implementation Timeframe	Projected Enrollment	
	HC	FTE
Year 1	160	20
Year 2	300	37
Year 3	300	37
Year 4	360	45
Year 5	400	50

Projected Program Costs				
E&G Cost per FTE	E&G Funds	Contract & Grants Funds	Auxiliary Funds	Total Cost
\$3242	\$64842			\$64842
\$4855	\$242751			\$242751

## **Need and Demand**

The target audience is prospective students that have a general interest in health care. Current FAU students who are unsuccessful in pursuing a premedical or pre-nursing track, but are still interested in a career in health care would benefit from this degree program.

Many incoming freshmen biology majors declare an intention of attending a health professional graduate program (medical or dental school) upon graduation. A significant proportion, however, do not maintain the level of academic performance to make this a realistic goal. This degree offers an option for such students to complete their degree with an emphasis and to pursue employment or graduate studies in allied health fields. According to the EAB Market Viability Report (Catalani & Mondelli, 2015), there has been an increase in demand regionally (58% increase state-wide) and nationally (67% increase) for health science graduates over the last year.

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## **Budget**

The BA Health Science degree program is based on existing course offerings in FAU's colleges (with the exception of three Health Science courses being developed). We expect minimal resources to be needed, especially in the first year of implementation. We anticipate that the credit hours will be diffused across colleges, thus not necessitating additional courses. The College of Science is currently unable to shift funds. Funding for this program would come from the Provost's Office.

## **Projected Benefit of the Program to the University, Local Community, and State**

The Health Science degree will enable FAU to redirect students into health care careers other than nursing and medicine. This would support the university mission to retain and graduate these students in a timely fashion within a critical need area (health care; as indicated by the State of Florida), supporting the SUS mission to do so. As indicated in the market analysis for this degree program, "[E]mployer demand for graduates with health science skillsets increased 58 percent statewide and 67 percent nationwide over the last year." The counties in FAU's service area (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach) rank within the top 7 counties in Florida in job postings for health science professionals.

## **Institutional Readiness**

This degree supports the State of Florida employment initiatives by preparing students to

directly enter the workforce (or graduate programs). The EAB Market Analysis reports that there is a sharp recent increase in job postings in the last year for Health Science graduates. They found a **high employer demand** for graduates with health science skill sets (growth of 58% statewide and 67% nationwide over the last year).

Redirecting unsuccessful pre-nursing and pre-medical students into other health related careers would enable the university to retain and graduate students in a critical need area (health), aiding the University in the spirit of the performance metrics.

### **Average Time to Degree/ Four and Six-Year Graduation Rates**

The proposed Health Science degree will decrease the average time to degree completion for students lingering in science and pre-nursing majors and where they have proven unsuccessful. Multiple attempts at required courses can delay graduation by more than one semester. The Health Science degree is designed with a broad based curriculum in order to utilize classes that students have previously taken; and to not require classes that are traditionally roadblocks for students interested in academic rigorous health care training such as medicine and dentistry.

### **Bachelor Degrees in Programs of Strategic Emphasis**

*Health* constitutes an area of strategic emphasis by the Florida Board of Governors. The proposed Health Science degree will aid FAU with this performance indicator by awarding more Bachelor degrees in this critical needs area. The Health Science degree will directly address the economic development and workforce needs in health care by directly preparing students for careers in health care or after graduate level training.

### **Bachelor Degrees in STEM and Health**

In 2014, *Health* was added to this performance indicator “in recognition that is an especially key component of Florida’s current and future workforce.” The proposed Health Science degree will aid FAU with this performance indicator by awarding more Bachelor degrees in this critical needs area.

(2025 Strategic Plan for the State University of Florida)

The Health Science degree provides complementary support to the neuroscience pillar and direct support for the healthy aging pillar of FAU’s institutional goals and strategic actions. The Health Science degree has an emphasis area in healthy aging.

### **Reviews and Accreditation**

This is a new degree proposal that cuts across several departments and colleges. A committee was established that represent the colleges/departments with courses listed in this degree program and the Director of Interprofessional Education at FAU.