New Program Proposal
Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training
Winthrop University

Summary

Winthrop University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training, to be implemented in Fall 2008. Upon approval of this program, an existing concentration in Athletic Training in the Physical Education program will immediately be terminated.

The program was approved by the Winthrop Board of Trustees on February 22, 2008, and submitted to the Commission for review on February 29, 2008. The proposal was reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Academic Programs (ACAP) on March 20, 2008, and was approved unanimously without substantive comment.

Winthrop University currently offers an accredited Concentration in Athletic Training through the existing Bachelor of Science in Physical Education program. The accrediting agency, the Commission on Accreditation in Athletic Training Education (CAATE), now requires that accredited Athletic Training programs be majors rather than concentrations. The proposal states that the request for the proposed program is in part to meet this accreditation requirement. In addition, however, the proposal states that, independent of any professional accreditation requirement, there is a need and demand for a degree program in athletic training. In order to practice as an athletic trainer, an individual must pass a professional certification examination. According to the proposal, the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* states that employment in the field of athletic training will increase 24% in the next decade. Graduates are in demand in a variety of high school and college sports programs, industrial settings, sports medicine clinics, the military, fitness and recreational settings. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for employment and for continued study in graduate programs.

Six institutions in the state besides Winthrop currently have accredited undergraduate programs in athletic training. Of these, three are public (the University of South Carolina, the College of Charleston, and Lander University) and three are private (Charleston Southern University, Erskine College, and Limestone College). According to the proposal, all of these programs have very similar course requirements as required by the accrediting body. Winthrop states that the geographical location of its program, its state-of-the-art facilities, and the success of the athletic training concentration combine to indicate that the program will be successful in attracting students.

In addition to meeting requirements for admission to the College of Education, the proposed program will require prospective students to complete 30 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5; complete four core athletic training courses with a minimum GPA of 2.75; and complete a minimum of 75 hours of directed observation with a Certified Athletic Trainer. Meeting these and the other requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program, however, as there is a limit on the number of clinical students who can be admitted to the program. The curriculum will consist of 125 credit hours in: General Education (47 credit hours) and Athletic Training Core (78 credit hours). The proposed program will require three new courses to be added to the institution's catalog of courses. The program contains two different levels of assessment of student learning outcomes. First, as students progress through the core courses, the institution is required by the accrediting body to document success in almost 400 different competencies grouped into the broad areas of Psychomotor, Cognitive, and Clinical Proficiency. Secondly, the student must take and pass the discipline's Board of Certification National Certification Examination in order to practice as an athletic trainer.

The proposal describes on-going discussions with York Technical College to create an articulation agreement specific to Athletic Training. Such an agreement will have to account for Athletic Training program requirements for clinical experiences. According to Winthrop staff, an agreement will be in place in the first year of program implementation.

The program will require no new faculty, staff, or administrative personnel in the first five years of its implementation because it is the successor to the established Concentration in Athletic Training in the Bachelor of Science in Physical Education program of study.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 45 headcount (45 FTE) in Fall 2008 and increase to 60 headcount (60 FTE) in Fall 2012. These projections are based on current enrollment in the athletic training concentration and on student interest expressed at the admission's office over the last two years. If enrollment and program completion projections are met, the program will meet the Commission's productivity standards.

The proposal presents a detailed comparison of library holdings among USC-Columbia, Lander, the College of Charleston, Radford University, and Winthrop. Winthrop's holdings are generally comparable to these other institutions'. Like other South Carolina institutions, Winthrop has access to the PASCAL library database in addition to its institutional holdings. According to the proposal, Winthrop has invested over $176,000 in the last three years to upgrade its holdings in areas supporting Health and Physical Education.

No additional facilities or equipment will be required for the proposed program. That the proposal lists no new costs required for the proposed program reflects the fact that the proposed program is the successor to the Concentration in Athletic Training, which uses the same facilities and faculty as the proposed program.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	$319,288	$0	**$319,288**	N/A	$132,919	**$132,919**
Year 2	$319,288	$0	**$319,288**	$163,088	$132,919	**$296,007**
Year 3	$383,145	$0	**$383,145**	$163,088	$160,209	**$323,297**
Year 4	$408,688	$0	**$408,688**	$195,102	$170,419	**$365,521**
Year 5	$408,688	$0	**$408,688**	$208,511	$170,419	**$378,930**

These data demonstrate that if Winthrop University can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the fifth year of its implementation.

In summary, Winthrop University is proposing a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training to begin in the Fall of 2008. The existing Concentration in Athletic Training within the Bachelor of Science program in Physical Education will be terminated simultaneously with the approval and implementation of the proposed program of study. The proposed program will prepare graduates for work in varied settings and for advanced academic work. Because the proposed program is the successor to the Concentration in Athletic Training, there will be no additional costs to the institution or the state to implement the proposed program.

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training at Winthrop University, to be implemented in the Fall of 2008, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that the Concentration in Athletic Training within the Bachelor of Science

in Physical Education be terminated simultaneously with the approval and implementation of the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training.