

**New Program Proposal
Master of Arts
Social Science
The Citadel**

Summary

The Citadel requests approval to offer a program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Social Science, to be implemented in Fall 2005. This program will replace the program leading to the Master of Arts in Education degree in Social Science which the institution terminated in Spring 2005.

The President and Provost of the Citadel approved the proposal on February 15, 2005. The proposal was submitted for Commission review on February 17, 2005. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on March 7, 2005. During the discussion of the proposal the representative of the College of Charleston indicated that the College of Charleston was supportive of the program, even though the College of Charleston offers several master's-level degree programs in the humanities and social sciences.

There are two purposes of the program. It will provide a master's program for in-service teachers whose goal in taking the program is to complete a content-rich program in their teaching area of expertise. It will also provide students with the knowledge and credentials to apply for positions in the social assistance employment sector, especially in public safety, for students interested in those types of careers. Beginning in Spring 2005, no new students have been permitted to enroll in the M.A. in Education program in Social Science, which has been discontinued.

The need for the program arises from the employment goals of the two groups it is meant to serve. According to the proposal, a large, new group of students in the Charleston area desires a terminal master's degree in social science in order to qualify to work in a variety of social assistance and law enforcement agencies in the Charleston region. In-service teachers who formerly enrolled in the M.A. in Education program in Social Science will find that the new program will give them greater depth or breadth in the social sciences than the former program which required nine credit hours of pedagogy. The in-service teacher subpopulation of enrollees for this program may choose whether or not to take professional education courses as part of the proposed degree program.

The curriculum will consist of 36 credit hours. There will be two new courses added to The Citadel's catalogue. These two new courses will be the core courses (i.e., Seminar in Social Science and Research Methods in Social Science) required of all students in the program. Five foundation courses must be chosen from a list of 17 courses, all but two of which (i.e., one each in sociology and anthropology) are in political science and criminal justice. Five additional elective courses must be selected from a list in psychology, business administration, education, English, history, and health education.

The new program differs principally from the old one in retaining an option, but eliminating the *requirement*, of a three-course (9 credit hours) education track. The renaming of the program as a Master of Arts, rather than a Master of Arts in Education, degree is anticipated to appeal to persons whose career interests are wholly unrelated to K-12 teaching positions. The new program also allows students to take courses from very different areas of the social sciences, if they so choose.

For developing the proposal the institution conducted research among students in the M.A. in Education in Social Science program to ascertain their potential interest in the new program. The results show that a very high percentage of students in the program express the opinion that a change to a Master of Arts in Social Science program is highly desirable for the potential career benefits in promotion and pay. Local law enforcement officials in the Charleston area have provided written statements of their interest in this program for the development and career advancement of their employees. No other degree program currently exists in this field in South Carolina.

A total of 10 full-time faculty (nine permanent and one visiting faculty), constituting 1.66 FTE, will form the teaching corpus available for this program in Fall 2005. The proposal states that the FTE component will not increase during the first five years.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 54 students (30.4 FTE) in FY 2005-2006 and increase to 62 students (34.9 FTE) by FY 2009-2010. If enrollment projections are accurate, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards.

The program is not designed specifically for in-service teachers, as was the program it is replacing. Therefore, the program would not be a candidate for review by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or any other professional body.

No institutional costs are shown in the proposal for this program, because they are not “new.” The institution has confirmed that all resources to support this program for its implementation are already in place in support of the now-terminated M.A. in Education degree in Social Science.

In summary, the proposed program will replace the program leading to the M.A. in Education degree in Social Science which was terminated in Spring 2005. The new program will prepare students with knowledge and skills useful for social science secondary school teachers or for persons seeking career preparation or advancement in social assistance and law enforcement programs in the Charleston service area. The degree is not recommended for persons seeking to enter a Ph.D. program in one of the social sciences.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the program at The Citadel leading to the Master of Arts degree with a major in Social Science, to be implemented in Fall 2005, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that the data file on the terminated program leading to the M.A. in Education degree in Social Science be closed in May 2006.