

New Program Proposal
Master of Research Administration in Research Administration
Medical University of South Carolina

The Medical University of South Carolina requests approval to offer a program leading to the Master of Research Administration degree in Research Administration, to be implemented in Fall 2008.

The Board of Trustees approved the proposal on April 13, 2007. It was submitted to the Commission on February 12, 2007. The proposal was reviewed with substantive discussion and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs on July 25, 2007.

According to the proposal, the purpose of the program is to ensure that the growing demand for research administrators keep pace with the rise in external funding awarded to colleges and universities for research, the scale of research management on campuses, and the complicated legal and regulatory requirements associated with receiving external funding. According to the proposal, the program reflects the current and growing need for research administrators who are instrumental in proposal preparation, budgeting, reporting, monitoring, contracting, procurement and staffing.

The curriculum of the proposed program consists of 36 credit hours. Five of the required courses (15 credit hours) are currently offered in the Master of Health Administration program. Six new courses (21 credit hours) will be added to the catalog of the institution.

There are currently four similar programs in the United States. None of these exist in the Southeastern region. According to the proposal, Medical University of South Carolina's unique blended executive format requires students to attend on-campus sessions one long weekend per semester with the balance of the program delivered online. The proposed program has established linkages with the University of South Carolina - Columbia and Clemson University to provide opportunities for inter-university collaboration to serve the needs of all three universities. An external advisory committee comprised of representatives of the three universities will be formed to provide advice and guidance regarding curriculum, student recruitment, and program delivery.

The proposal notes that there is already a substantial demand among current and prospective students for a program in Research Administration. Projected

enrollment for the proposed program is 30 students in each of the first five years of the program. Classroom size will be limited to approximately 30 students based on the format of the “Executive” programs (i.e. extended weekends and online for working adults) who have been offered in the past.

No new faculty members will be hired for the first two years of the program. One new full-time tenured faculty member with major teaching responsibility in the Master of Research Administration program will be hired in the third-year of the program. Full-time and adjunct faculty members for the program will be drawn from existing department residential faculty and MUSC practitioners. Collaboration with USC-Columbia and Clemson may attract potential faculty members from those institutions to teach in the program.

The proposed program will not require any professional accreditation, since no accrediting body exists for programs in Research Administration. Graduates of the program will be eligible for certification examination by the Research Administrators Certification Council.

There are no new physical plant requirements or new equipment purchases that will be required to support the proposed program. The program will be housed in the 80,000 square feet educational complex at the College of Health Professionals. Existing classrooms and faculty facilities will be utilized. On-campus classes will be held in the College of Health Professions facilities in Charleston, with the possibility of some sessions at USC-Columbia and Clemson. Online interaction will be facilitated utilizing the MUSC WebCT online learning management system that is currently in use by faculty members.

The Medical University of South Carolina library provides print and electronic resources, access to electronic library resources through MEDLINE, CINAHL, and PsycINFO. These include the statewide PASCAL databases, a variety of other digital indexes and full-text databases, PASCAL Delivers, Library Document Delivery, InterLibrary Loan, Internet access, bibliographical instruction, and a variety of biomedical and health sciences resources. In addition, the library currently holds subscription to the *Journal of Research Administration* and all mainstream healthcare research journals necessary for the program.

New costs for the program are estimated to be \$247,960 for the first five years of the proposed program. Categories of costs over the first five years of the program’s implementation include program administration (\$166,400); faculty salaries (\$950,900); clerical/support personnel (\$47,500); and supplies and materials (\$75,000). Total estimated new costs for the program during the first five years will be \$1,239,800.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the State and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with the 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	\$288,645	\$0	\$288,645	N/A	\$122,622	\$122,622
Year 2	\$288,645	\$0	\$288,645	\$108,251	\$122,622	\$230,873
Year 3	\$288,645	\$0	\$288,645	\$108,251	\$122,622	\$230,873
Year 4	\$288,645	\$0	\$288,645	\$108,251	\$122,622	\$230,873
Year 5	\$288,645	\$0	\$288,645	\$108,251	\$122,622	\$230,873

These data demonstrate that if the Medical University of South Carolina 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, the Medical University of South Carolina will offer a program leading to the Master of Research Administration degree in Research Administration. This program will contribute to the current need for research administrators to keep pace with the rise in external funding awarded to colleges and universities for research.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission approval of the Medical University of South Carolina's program leading to the Master of Research Administration degree in Research Administration, to be implemented in Fall 2008, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.