

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Associate of Science in Health Sciences Degree
Letter of Intent

The Request

Weber State University (WSU) requests authorization to offer an Associate of Science Degree in Health Sciences (ASHS). The proposed degree was approved by the WSU Board of Trustees on June 14, 2005.

Program Description

The ASHS is a 60 credit degree program which includes 40 credits of general education and 20 credits of Health Sciences courses. All of these courses are already in existence and have been taught for many years at WSU.

Students who complete the ASHS degree will also satisfy course pre-requisites for a wide variety of health professions programs currently housed in the WSU Dumke College of Health Profession (DCHP): Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Radiologic Sciences, Respiratory Therapy, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Health Information Systems, and Health Administration. The ASHS degree will also serve as a preparatory associate degree for other WSU baccalaureate degrees and will expand students' options for related health care employment as Healthcare Business Office Manager, Healthcare Technical Writer, Eldercare Health Specialist, Medical Secretary, Healthy Lifestyle Coach, Pharmaceutical or Medical Equipment Sales, and Medical Social Worker (Appendix I has a more extensive list of related health care career paths that build upon the ASHS degree). Finally, the ASHS degree will also serve as a transfer associate degree for students who go to other USHE institutions to earn baccalaureate degrees.

<u>Associate of Science in Health Sciences Degree</u>	
An overall GPA of 2.5 or higher is required, and a course grade of "C" or higher is required for all Health Sciences (Hthsci) courses. Students must meet with an advisor to be certain the courses they complete will satisfy program pre-requisites.	
General Education: 40 cr total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Composition – 6 cr • American Institutions – 3 cr • Quantitative Literacy – 3 cr • Computer & Information Lit. – 4 cr • Creative Arts/Humanities (Comm 1020 or 2110, 6 additional cr) – 9 cr • Life/Physical Sciences (Chem 1010, Nutr 1020, Micr 1113) – 9 cr • Social Sciences (Psych 1010, Soc 1010) – 6 cr 	Health Sciences: 20 cr total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hthsci 1101(Medical Terminology) – 2 cr • Hthsci 1110/1111(Bio Medical Core) – 8 cr <i>OR</i> Zool 2100 (Human Anatomy) <u>and</u> Zool 2220 (Human Physiology) <i>OR</i> Hthsci 1105/1106 (Technology-enhanced A&P) • Hthsci 2230 (Introduction to Pathophysiology) – 3 cr • Hthsci 2231(Pathophysiology Lab) – 1 cr • Minimum of 6 cr from the following: Hthsci 1120 (Case Studies in Health Sciences) – 2 cr Hthsci 1108 (Biocalculations for Health Prof.) – 5 cr Hthsci 1130 (Common Medicines) – 3 cr Hthsci 2240 (Introduction to Pharmacology) – 3 cr

Mission Fit

Regents' policy R312 indicates that the mission of WSU is *"to transmit knowledge and skills primarily through undergraduate programs at the associate and baccalaureate levels, including applied technology education programs ...The institution offers certificates, diplomas, general education, associate degrees and awards in applied technology education, (and) baccalaureate degree programs including those built upon associate degree programs. Within the organization of the institution the comprehensive community college function is identifiable, supported through programs, services, and specific administrative responsibility, and includes transfer education"*. To fulfill this mission, WSU and the DCHP have a strong focus upon career-ladder programs where students are able to complete one-year certificate, two-year associate degree, and four-year baccalaureate degree programs within the same or closely-related disciplines. The proposed ASHS degree will serve as another "rung" in the array of existing WSU DCHP career-ladder programs, programs with national reputations for excellence. This proposed degree is an excellent fit under the R312 description for WSU.

Current Faculty Preparedness

The six Department of Health Sciences faculty have been teaching all of the Health Sciences classes required for this degree (see Appendix II for faculty names and credentials).

Market and Student Demand

Market Demand

The Utah Department of Workforce Services report on Utah Job Trends predicts that four of the eight fastest growing Utah occupations are in health care. Health care is a broad employment category and includes both clinical health care practitioners (nurses, respiratory therapists, radiologic technicians, dental hygienists, etc) and those who work in related health care fields (management, communication, public relations, sales, equipment repair, etc). In the health care practitioner category, it is predicted that there will be nearly 2,400 open jobs each year in Utah from 2002 to 2012. These open positions, along with available jobs in related health care fields, are predicted to account for at least 10 % of the job growth in Utah.

Utah data are consistent with the national demand for health care industry employees. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 2002 to 2012, 14% of new jobs will be in health care. These new jobs include licensed health care practitioners, as well as non-practitioner related health care employment in clinics, doctors' offices, research institutions, and medical supply companies. There is strong market demand in Utah and nationally for health care employment.

Student Demand

Potential student demand for the degree emerged from recent DCHP strategic planning discussions which focused on how to better assist students who apply for WSU health care programs. Most of these programs require students to complete a minimum of two semesters of pre-requisite courses as part of the application process. Applications are judged against multiple criteria, including pre-requisite course grades, other college degrees held by the applicant, and whether or not the student

is a reapplicant. Students who apply or reapply for DHCP programs are provided with information on the process and criteria by the two professional advisors and one staff member of the DCHP Office of Admissions Advisement.

In 2004-05, 2,037 applicants applied for approximately 930 openings in the DCHP health care programs. Because of the high student demand for these programs and the limited number of available spaces, more than half of those who apply are unsuccessful. Since many unsuccessful applicants are strongly focused on the goal of obtaining health care employment, approximately half of them reapply for admissions. Reapplicants are rated more positively if they have already earned a college degree. Reapplicants who are unsuccessful are better served if they have earned a degree that has prepared them for related health care employment because they are able to continue to make progress toward achieving their goal of health care employment, even if this employment is in a related area and not as a clinical practitioner. Thus, the proposed ASHS degree will meet the needs of several categories of students: those who initially apply for and are accepted into DCHP programs, those who are successful reapplicants, and those who are unsuccessful in either their initial application or subsequent reapplications.

In a 2004-05 survey of 348 students enrolled in Health Sciences pre-requisite classes, 228 students (66%) said they would be interested in the ASHS degree, and the remainder said they were not sure or they did not want the degree (24% and 10%, respectively). Given the competitive application process for DCHP programs that results from high student demand for the limited number of available spaces, the ASHS degree will be of great value to students.

Budget

No new or reallocated funding will be required to implement the proposed ASHS degree because all the required courses have been and will be taught by existing WSU faculty and because students will be advised on this degree by existing DCHP advising staff. In fact, if this proposed degree meets the criteria for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Perkins funding, there could be an increase in WSU revenue as a result of implementing the ASHS degree. The following table provides a projected five-year budget for the Division of College Services which includes the both the DCHP Office of Admissions Advisement and the Health Sciences Department.

Budget Categories	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Contract Salaries	\$464,745	\$483,335	\$502,668	\$522,775	\$543,686
Benefits	\$186,452	\$189,268	\$196,839	\$204,519	\$212,700
Current Expense/Travel/Capital (E&G funds, lab fees, application fees)	\$49,035	\$50,996	\$53,035	\$55,156	\$57,362

Similar Programs in USHE

There are currently no other associate degree health science programs in the USHE system that are similar to this ASHS degree. There are similar programs outside of Utah, including an Associate of Applied Science in Health Science at the University of Alaska-Southeast (Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan, AK campuses), Associate of Science in Health Sciences at Drexel University

(Philadelphia, PA), and a degree designed for students planning to transfer into Allied Health Programs at Merced Community College called Associate in Arts Degree in Health Sciences (Merced, CA).

Institutional Priority

The DCHP has a strong focus on and is known nationwide for its career-ladder programs. The ASHS degree, with its purpose of assisting students to be more successful applicants or reapplicants for DCHP programs, or to become successfully employed in related health care employment settings, is a top priority in WSU's planning processes. The ASHS degree is included on the Board of Regents Section II planning matrix of future degree programs under development at WSU.

APPENDIX I

Possible related health care employment for ASHS graduates who pursue baccalaureate degrees at WSU; compiled by Jan St. Clair, DCHP Career Counselor, May 12, 2005

Accounting - Health Care Accountant
Art - Art Therapist, Medical Illustrator, Medical Arts Specialist, Medical Video Producer, Healthcare Advertising Designer
Automotive - Automotive Safety Designer
Bilingual Education - Bilingual Health Educator
Business - Healthcare Business Office Manager, Nursing Home Owner, Health Service Company Owner, Medical Products, Manufacturer, Healthcare Product Sales Small Business Owner, International Health Policy Administrator
Child Development - Healthcare Child Life Specialist, Play Therapist
Communication – Healthcare Public Relations Specialist, Health Network Broadcaster/Producer, Health Journalist
Computer Design - Medical Supply Designer, Medical Advertising
Computer & Electronics Engineering Technology -Computer Designer for Disabled
Computer Science – Medical Webpage Designer
Construction Management Technology - Construction Safety Designer
Dance - Dance Therapist
Design Graphics Engineering Technology - Healthcare Product Advertising Designer
Early Childhood - Children’s Health Specialist
Elementary Education - Child Health Educator
Economics - Healthcare Business Economist
English - Healthcare Technical Writer, Health Novelist, Writing Therapist
Geography - Global Health Specialist/Researcher
Family Studies – Family Health Specialist/Researcher
Fashion Merchandising - Healthcare Uniform Fashion Designer, Uniform Sales Rep, Prosthetic Fashion Design/Sales
Foreign Language - International Healthcare Worker, International Healthcare Interpreter
Geology - Healthcare Mineral Specialist/Researcher
Gerontology - Eldercare Health Specialist
History - Healthcare Historian
Human Performance - Post-operative Fitness Trainer, Geriatric Fitness Trainer, Pregnancy Fitness Trainer, Preventative Health Specialist
Human Resources - Corporate Health Educator
Interior Design - Interior Designer for Hospitals/Clinics/Doctors, Healthcare Furniture Designer
Lifestyle Management - Healthy Lifestyle Manager
Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Medical Products Process Control Engineer
Marketing - Medical Products Marketer
Mechanical Engineering Technology - Medical Products Design Engineer
Music - Music Therapist
Office Technologies - Medical Secretary
Photography - Medical Illustration Photographer
Physical Education Teaching/Coaching - Healthy Lifestyle Coach
Physics - BioMedical Technician Assistant
Psychology - Hospital Psychology Technician
Social Work - Medical Social Worker
Sociology - Health-related Career Researcher
Special Education - Hygiene Educator
Technical Sales - Pharmaceutical Sales, Medical Supply/Equipment/Service Sales, Healthcare Recruiter, Healthcare Event Planner, Healthcare Customer Service Manager

Theater Arts - Drama Therapist

APPENDIX II

Department of Health Sciences Faculty

Georgine Bills, RRT; BS Respiratory Therapy WSU 1985, MBA University of Utah 1991 -
Professor

Kraig Chugg, MT (ASCP); BS Clinical Laboratory Sciences WSU 1995, MS Utah State University
1999 - *Assistant Professor*

Curtis DeFriez, MD; BS Brigham Young University 1979; MD University of Utah 1983 - *Assistant
Professor*

G. Craig Gundy, BS, MS, PhD University of Pittsburgh 1969, 1972, 1974 - *Professor*

Marie Kotter, MT (ASCP); BS, MS, PhD University of Utah 1968, 1973, 1979 - *Professor*

Robert C. Soderberg, DDS; BS, MS University of Utah 1952, 1972; DDS University of Washington
1963 - *Associate Professor*