

**University of Minnesota Board of Regents
Mission Fulfillment Committee
December 16, 2021
Public Review Consent Report: Academic Program Changes**

I. Request for Approval of New Academic Programs

College of Education and Human Development (Twin Cities campus)—Create a post-baccalaureate certificate in Learning Analytics

The College of Education and Human Development on the Twin Cities campus requests approval to create a post-baccalaureate certificate in Learning Analytics, effective spring 2022. As an interdisciplinary area, learning analytics brings together ideas from education, data science, and design to address current education problems. The Learning Analytics certificate aims to develop skills in the use of data to improve learning and teaching in various contexts and is structured to develop understanding in three core areas - foundations, theory, and analytics. The program is relevant for current graduate students in the Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Psychology departments, and more broadly to students within the College of Education and Human Development and related University of Minnesota units (such as Computer Science, Workforce Development, and Industrial/Organizational Psychology). Given the increasing adoption of learning analytics in K-12 schools, the certificate is also attractive to K-12 practitioners. The certificate builds on the unique strengths of the Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Psychology departments, as well as the University's growing capacity in data science and makes use of existing courses and resources.

College of Education and Human Service Professions (Duluth campus)—Create a B.A.Sc. degree in Childhood Nature Studies

The College of Education and Human Service Professions on the Duluth campus requests approval to create a Bachelor of Applied Sciences in Childhood Nature Studies, effective spring 2022. The proposed program entails a nature-based, interdisciplinary foundation of theory and practical skills. Students will study childhood development from an eco-bio-developmental framework and learn the foundations of healthy development and the potential for nature to support children's learning. They will learn to interact with children and families and provide developmentally, and culturally appropriate experiences for children and gain experience in designing and using nature-rich, playful learning environments, such as nature playscapes, early childhood nature play programs, and nature preschools. There is a movement regionally, nationally and internationally toward nature-based childhood programs and a professional movement toward making nature-experiences more accessible and inclusive, which will be a key aspect of this program. Through intentional advising, coursework, and a culminating internship, the program prepares graduates to apply integrated eco-bio-developmental frameworks and work collaboratively across diverse disciplines toward holistic child development. The intended market is northern Minnesota, and the Midwest region. Efforts will be made to recruit from regional Indigenous communities and likely some national recruitment, due to few similar programs. The program will leverage existing courses and resources.

II. Request for Approval of Changed Academic Programs

College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (Twin Cities campus) —change the name of the undergraduate minor in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems to Food Systems

The College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences requests approval to change the name of the minor in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems to Food Systems, effective spring 2022. The proposed name change reflects current curricular alignment and will create distinction from a separate existing undergraduate minor in Sustainable Agriculture.

Rochester Campus—Create a Lab Based Sciences sub plan in the Health Sciences B.S. degree

The Rochester campus requests approval to create a Lab Based Sciences sub plan in the Health Sciences Bachelor of Science degree, effective spring 2022. The optional sub plan designates that students have completed at least 16 credits of chemistry coursework and 16 credits of biology coursework, satisfying requirements of external human resources departments for certain laboratory-based positions.

Crookston campus—Create three new sub plans in the Biology B.S. degree

The Crookston campus requests approval to create optional sub plans in Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, and Plant and Soil Sciences in the Biology Bachelor of Science degree, effective spring 2022. The addition of the optional sub plans is part of a program restructure to provide students opportunities to deepen their knowledge and skills in specific areas of curricular emphasis and growth in the field of biology.

III. Request for Approval of Discontinued Academic Programs

College of Liberal Arts, School of Public Health, and the Graduate School (Twin Cities campus)—Discontinue the M.A. and graduate minor in Health Journalism and Communications

The College Liberal Arts, the School of Public Health, and the Graduate School on the Twin Cities campus request approval to discontinue the Master of Arts degree and graduate minor in Health Journalism and Communications, effective spring 2022. The request to discontinue is due to lack of enrollment. There are currently no current students pursuing this shared degree program or the corresponding minor.

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Duluth campus)—Discontinue the graduate minor in Music

The College Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences on the Duluth Campus requests approval to discontinue the graduate minor in Music, effective spring 2022. There are currently no current students enrolled in this minor.