

University of Minnesota Board of Regents
Mission Fulfillment Committee
June 9, 2022
Public Review Consent Report: Academic Program Changes

I. Request for Approval of New Academic Programs

School of Dentistry (Twin Cities Campus)—Create an Oral Health Educator Certificate

The School of Dentistry on the Twin Cities campus requests approval to create an Oral Health Educator Certificate, effective fall 2022. The Oral Health Educator Certificate program is a four-course, 12-credit program focused on educational methodology and effective clinical and didactic teaching practices for dental, dental therapy, and dental hygiene educators. The program will provide oral health faculty with training in evidence-based clinical and didactic teaching practices. The need for faculty expertise in digital technology, simulation, asynchronous learning, and assessment have become particularly apparent in light of current societal challenges. Faculty will be equipped with tools to reconceptualize and optimize existing curriculum for engaging and equitable learning opportunities. There is a need for an accessible, time-bound program to develop faculty with effective teaching competencies for thousands of oral health faculty across the 68 dental schools and 327 dental hygiene programs in the United States. The program will be delivered online and makes use of existing curriculum and resources.

College of Design (Twin Cities Campus)—Create a Certificate in Design Justice

The College of Design on the Twin Cities campus requests approval to create an undergraduate level Certificate in Design Justice, effective fall 2022. The certificate program focuses on addressing structural inequality in design through social, cultural, and environmental lenses. Courses from multiple design disciplines will offer an in-depth understanding of how design creates benefits and burdens for people with different identities, as well as how design applies and enhances community-based, indigenous practices and knowledge. An environmental scan of potential competitors revealed that there is no comprehensive curriculum on design and social justice among the 15 identified competing universities. This unmet need creates a strong demand for a certificate focused on design justice. The program will be delivered in an online modality and makes use of existing courses and resources.

College of Liberal Arts (Twin Cities Campus)—Create an B.A. in Dakota Language

The College of Liberal Arts on the Twin Cities campus requests approval to create a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dakota Language, effective fall 2022. The goal of the Dakota Language major is to best situate both heritage and non-heritage Dakota students with the skills and knowledge to positively intervene in the cultural life of the state's Dakota communities by contributing to the revitalization of the Dakota language. The distinguishing feature of this program is a communication-centered approach based in storytelling using both academically rigorous grammatical instruction and immersion techniques inside the classroom. Students in this major will be more prepared to fill an ever-growing need for immersion teacher positions; graduate with a more sophisticated knowledge of the Dakota language; have more time to increase their fluency under instructor supervision; and increase their knowledge of immersion pedagogy. The creation of this degree will attract more students to our program, especially heritage Dakota students from local and out-of-state Dakota reservations who are looking to learn their heritage

language. A significant portion of instructor salary is funded through the annual appropriation from the state for Dakota Language Preservation and makes use of existing courses and resources. The program will be delivered in an in-person/classroom modality.

College of Liberal Arts (Twin Cities Campus)—Create an B.S. in Anthropology

The College of Liberal Arts on the Twin Cities campus requests approval to create a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology, effective fall 2022. Anthropology is the study of humankind in all of its forms (cultural, biological, and linguistic) and combines a set of theories and methods that allows students to learn about the scientific, social, political, and historical perspectives on human variation and human evolution. Fundamentally, Anthropology therefore contributes to the liberal education of students at the University of Minnesota by tackling questions that are at the heart of societal tensions: how does identity relate to the biological and cultural factors that have shaped humans as a species, and that continue to shape populations and individuals? Within the major, students will take numerous lab-based courses, in which they learn to ask scientific questions, design a research methodology, collect and analyze data, and use the results to refine the question. Non-lab-based classes also strongly emphasize research skills, effective writing, and critical thought. The B.S. degree provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers in anthropology, such as evolutionary anthropology, molecular anthropology, geo-archaeology, archaeological chemistry, and forensic anthropology and will enable students who are pursuing a career in the health sciences to fulfill the math and science prerequisites for medical school and other graduate programs in health, while gaining a solid foundation in anthropology. There is no other university in the state that currently offers a B.S. degree in anthropology. The proposed degree is particularly appropriate for the University of Minnesota due to four factors: 1) the curricular and research strengths of the Anthropology department; 2) the complementarity of existing programs in CLA; 3) the U's strength in the sciences in general, and the health sciences in particular; and 4) from analysis of data from peer institutions which offer both B.A. and B.S. degrees in Anthropology. The program will be delivered in an in-person/classroom modality and makes use of existing courses and resources.

Crookston Campus—Create the NXT-Gen Rural Success Certificate

The Crookston campus requests approval to create the NXT-Gen Rural Success undergraduate Certificate, effective fall 2022. The program is tailored to returning adult learners to help them to advance in their careers, engage with their communities, and persist in further post-secondary education. This is a stackable certificate that can be applied toward a Bachelor of Science degree and that integrates teaching, research, and community engagement related to rural communities. A needs assessment indicated that there is a significant need in rural communities to develop leadership and social capital development for sustaining the economic needs of the rural regions. This program will be targeted toward adult returning learners in rural Minnesota with a goal to recruit 40 new students within the first year of delivery and the same or additional prospects in following years. This certificate addresses the University's commitment to partner with communities to find customizable educational paths that fit learner and community needs. This certificate builds towards NXT-Gen bachelor degrees: NXT-Gen Ag, Ed, MSL, with NXT-Gen Ag as the first and most developed path. NXT-Gen Ag prepares graduates to advance natural resources and agro-food systems to elevate human security and potential, and to expand, develop, and retain agricultural and food system talent in rural communities and agribusiness. Funding has been secured to support recruitment and student advising, and various grants are in progress to support long-term sustainability.

This is an interdisciplinary program intended to align with the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, and it will be delivered in an online modality.

II. Request for Approval of Changed Academic Programs

Academic Health Sciences (Twin Cities Campus)—Change/correct the program delivery modality in the Medical Laboratory Sciences Certificate program from partially online to majority classroom.

Crookston Campus—**Discontinue respiratory care subplan Applied Studies B.S.**

The Crookston campus requests approval to discontinue the respiratory subplan in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Studies degree, effective fall 2022. The subplan is no longer necessary now that Applied Health B.S. is approved and active.

III. Request for Approval of Discontinued Academic Programs

College of Continuing and Professional Studies (Twin Cities Campus)—**Discontinue the Dakota and Ojibwe Language Teaching Certificates.** The College of Continuing and Professional Studies on the Twin Cities campus requests approval to discontinue the Dakota and Ojibwe Language Teaching Certificates, effective fall 2022. The request is due to low demand in a certificate-level program. Interested potential students will be directed to the new undergraduate program in CLA, which will provide quality language instruction to the community. The certificate programs are not currently being offered and do not appear in the University catalog.