

**NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION, PUBLIC SERVICE,  
AND RESEARCH AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval of two degree programs and one center at one public university.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves the following degree programs and one center:

University of Illinois at Chicago

- Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs
- Master of Science in Finance
- National Center for Rural Health Professions, off campus in the Fox Valley Region



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION, PUBLIC SERVICE,  
AND RESEARCH AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

By statute, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is responsible for approving new on-campus and off-campus units of instruction, organized research, and public service, and administration proposed by public university governing boards. The Board's approval criteria, defined in rules adopted for administering the statute, address university mission, academic control, faculty and staff, support services, financial resources, student demand, curriculum, statewide need, and congruence with Board policies and priorities. In addition to the approval criteria in rules, each new program was reviewed for its contributions to the goals of The Illinois Commitment that set forth new priorities to guide Illinois higher education in the first decade of the new millennium. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions, and for a few programs, recommendations of external consultants.

**University of Illinois at Chicago**

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Urban and Public Affairs

**Background.** The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) seeks to offer a B.A. in Urban and Public Affairs. The program has evolved as a result of the university's strong commitment to the Great Cities ideal and reflects the goal that urban research be a critical part of its mission as an urban land-grant institution. There is currently no undergraduate major devoted solely to the study of cities and metropolitan issues. While several departments have excellent urban-themed courses and internships, no one program brings them together in a coordinated manner or seeks to recruit students with special interests in urban affairs.

**The Illinois Commitment.** The proposed program will meet several goals of *The Illinois Commitment*, as summarized below.

*Goal 1: Help Illinois business and industry sustain strong economic growth.* Strong government & nonprofit sectors with diverse, knowledgeable and talented leadership are necessary for the economic development of the state.

*Goal 3: No Illinois citizen will be denied an opportunity for a college education because of financial need.* Leadership training is often associated with costly private universities that are less likely than UIC to service a diverse student body. This program will be affordable and accessible by an already diverse body of students.

*Goal 4: Increase the number and diversity of citizens completing training and education.* The program is aimed at increasing the number and diversity not just of university-trained students, but also of urban leaders.

*Goal 5: Hold students to even higher expectations for learning & be accountable for the quality of academic programs and the assessment of learning.* The program is designed to be of high quality, targeting a small group of students through a cohort approach to teaching and links to mentors and an urban laboratory.

*Goal 6: Improve productivity, cost-effectiveness, and accountability.* The program builds on existing graduate programs and multiple research centers to extend training to undergraduate students.

**Comparable Programs in Illinois.** No other programs in the state have the exact focus that the proposed program will have. Other programs focus solely on one area such as policy, urban studies, public administration, planning, political science, or leadership. The proposed program will combine knowledge of an urban environment with an understanding of the policy and management processes that can affect it. Additionally most programs, with the exception of political science, are only available at private institutions. UIC will be the only public institution to offer a program of this type in the state.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(1): A) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with the mission of the college or university; B) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with what the unit title implies.*

The proposed B.A. in Urban and Public Affairs will focus on training leaders in the study of cities and the broader metropolitan environment, particularly at the intersection between public affairs and urban problems and challenges. The proposed program is consistent with UIC's mission to "strengthen the economic and social vitality of the Chicago metropolitan area through its urban and land grant mission that emphasizes business and industrial development, health care, school improvement, and enhanced opportunities for minority groups."

### **Program Objectives**

The primary objective of the proposed program is to train pre-professional students to enter urban professions and graduate professional training. The program objectives are consistent with what the title of the program implies.

### **Curriculum and Assessment**

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(1) [applicable only to units of instruction]: A) The caliber and content to the curriculum assure that the objectives of the unit of instruction will be achieved; B) The breadth and depth of the curriculum are consistent with what the title of the unit of instruction implies; C) The admission and graduation requirements for the unit of instruction are consistent with the stated objectives of the unit of instruction; D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record-keeping.*

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(2): The design, conduct, and evaluation of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are under the direct and continuous control of the sponsoring institution's established processes for academic planning and quality maintenance.*

## Admission

The B.A. in Urban and Public Affairs will operate as a two-year junior and senior program. Students will be admitted after completing two years of college, either at UIC or other institutions. Admitted students will move together, as a cohort, through the program and graduate at the end of two years.

Students will apply for admission through the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Students must meet the following criteria:

- Junior standing only (completion of 60 semester-credit hours from any other program at UIC or from any accredited community college or four-year college or university)
- A cumulative grade point average of 2.75 out of 4.00
- Phone or personal interview
- Personal statement of educational goals
- Availability of space in the program
- Special consideration will be given to students who have completed courses in public and urban concerns and have some knowledge of economics and government, including the following courses (or their equivalent): UPA 101 - Introduction to Urban Students and UPA 202 - Planning Great Cities
- Most general education course requirements should be completed before starting the program

## Curriculum

The B.A. in Urban and Public Affairs requires 39 semester-credit hours in urban and public affairs coursework and 21 semester-credit hours of electives. Major coursework includes introduction to urban policy processes, political economy of urban development, urban government, urban policy analysis, globalization and urban public affairs, urban affairs and administration, and other related coursework. Elective coursework may include introduction to urban planning, urban and regional transportation methods, development finance for urban developers, and other appropriate courses. Fourteen new courses, all required major courses, have been developed for the proposed program.

## Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed through participation, individual and group presentations, exams, written reports, design projects, and other relevant demonstrations of learning as appropriate.

## Program Assessment

The program coordinator will have primary responsibility and oversight for program assessment. A coordinating committee, consisting of the program coordinator, the director of the Urban Planning and Policy program and the director of the Public Administration program, will meet each semester to assess the progress of the program. A team of external reviewers will be brought in to review the program in its third year. Following the three-year review, the program will be reviewed on the regular eight-year cycle per the Illinois Board of Higher Education guidelines.

The coordinating committee will review a variety of information to determine the status of the program. Evidence of program success will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Percent pass rate of graduates on end-of-program certification exams
- Enrollment of graduates in graduate and/or professional programs or other subsequent education
- Percent of graduates employed in the field
- Career advancement achieved by program graduates
- Graduate and employer satisfaction with the program
- Retention and graduation rates
- Percent of students involved in faculty research or other projects

### **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(4): A) Facilities, equipment, and instructional resources (e.g., laboratory supplies and equipment, instructional materials, computational equipment) necessary to support the high-quality academic work in the unit of instruction, research, or public service are available and maintained; B) Clinical sites necessary to meet the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service; C) Library holdings and acquisitions, owned or contracted for by the institution, that are necessary to support high-quality instruction and scholarship in the unit of instruction, research, and public service, are conveniently available and accessible, and can be maintained.*

The proposed program will require expansion and maintenance of computer laboratory space, at a recurring cost of \$10,000 annually, to accommodate additional student usage. Current classroom space is adequate for the proposed program and office space is available to accommodate the anticipated new faculty and staff.

### **Library Resources**

The university library estimates that \$36,000 is spent annually for resources that support the work in the area of urban and public affairs. College and library faculty have determined that current resources are adequate and no additional funds or resources will be necessary to support the proposed program.

### **Faculty and Staff**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(3): A) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff to ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are met; B) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff, as evidenced by level of degrees held, professional experience in the field of study and demonstrated knowledge of the field, ensure that they are able to fulfill their academic responsibilities; C) The involvement of faculty in the unit of instruction, research, or public service is sufficient to cover the various fields of knowledge encompassed by the unit, to sustain scholarship appropriate to the unit, and to assure curricular continuity and consistency in student evaluation; D) Support personnel, including but not limited to counselors, administrators, clinical supervisors, and technical staff, which are directly assigned to the unit of instruction, research, or public service, have the educational background and experience necessary to carry out their assigned responsibilities.*

The program will require a minimum of 15 courses each year and, therefore, a minimum of 3.75 full-time-equivalent faculty members. Neither the Urban Planning and Policy program nor the Public Administration program has the capacity to offer the proposed program. The College plans to hire one new faculty member, who is a noted urban scholar, and two junior faculty members. These three individuals will have primary responsibility for teaching major courses. Adjunct faculty members will be utilized on a limited basis. Faculty members teaching in the program will be members of either the Urban Planning and Policy or Public Administration program.

The program will also require a program coordinator. This individual will report to the director of the Urban Planning and Policy program and to the director of the Public Administration program. Initially, administrative support for the program will be provided by the College for Urban Planning and Public Affairs. In the second year of the program, a secretary will be hired to support the program.

All faculty and staff will be hired according to university policies and procedures to ensure that each possesses the qualifications necessary to fulfill their responsibilities to the program.

### **Fiscal and Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(5): A) The financial commitments to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are sufficient to ensure that the faculty and staff and support services necessary to offer the unit of instruction, research, or public service can be acquired and maintained; B) Projections of revenues necessary to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are based on supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition, and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs is committed to providing the resources necessary to support the proposed program. The program coordinator will have primary responsibility for overseeing the program and will also report to the director of the Urban Planning and Policy program and the director of the Public Administration program.

### **Student Enrollment**

It is expected that the program will enroll 20 students in the first year and 60 students by year three. Thereafter, enrollment is expected to remain constant at 60 students each year.

### **Fiscal Resources**

No new state resources are necessary to support the proposed program. The projected budget for the proposed program is \$430,000 during the first year of implementation. Initial funding for the program will be provided through reallocations from the Provost's Office. By the third year, the institution anticipates that the program will be generating enough revenue from tuition to support the program.

### **Faculty and Staff Resources**

As noted above, three additional full-time faculty members, a limited number of adjunct faculty members, a full-time program coordinator, and a secretary will be necessary to support the proposed program.

## **Accreditation and Licensure**

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(3) [applicable only to units of instruction]: Appropriate steps have been taken to assure that professional accreditation needed for licensure or entry into a profession as specified in the objectives of the unit of instruction is maintained or will be granted in a reasonable period of time.*

*Programs in which state licensure requires specialized accreditation for students to obtain professional licensure, but which have not yet achieved accreditation, will undergo full review and report to IBHE every three years until accreditation is achieved.*

### **Accreditation**

No specialized accreditation is available for this program.

### **Need**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(6): A) The unit of instruction, research, or public service is educationally and economically justified based on the educational priorities and needs of the citizens of Illinois; B) The unit of instruction, research, or public service meets a need that is not currently met by existing institutions and units of instruction, research, or public service.*

According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security 2010 Employment Projections, local and state government employment is among the fastest growing employment industries in the state of Illinois. Local government is ranked at number 11 with 1,577 new jobs anticipated annually and state government is ranked at number 23 with 606 new jobs expected annually.

The university's unique position as a public research institution in Chicago provides opportunities not available to students at other Illinois universities. The proposed program will bring the city and its region into the heart of the undergraduate learning experience. Students will not only study about Chicago and other urban regions, but also learn to experience, use and shape the places, institutions, activities and projects that animate the city. In doing so, they will develop the skills and commitment needed to enhance the economic and social vitality of the Chicago metropolitan area and other cities as well. Within the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, the students will have access to the Great Cities Institute, the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, the Urban Transportation Center, the Survey Research Lab, the UIC Center for Urban Economic Development, the Nathalie P. Voorhees Neighborhood and Community Center, and the Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Program, all of which are housed in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Students will benefit also from graduate faculty in the well-ranked programs in Urban Planning and Policy and Public Administration. The two graduate programs share a public orientation and applied policy focus that can offer undergraduates the opportunity to experience and study the metropolis and related policies. The current programs and centers at UIC already have established strong linkages with organizations and governments in the city of Chicago and its metropolitan area.

### **Program Information**

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(2) [applicable only to units of instruction]: The information which the institution provides for students and the public accurately describes the unit of instruction,*

*including its objectives, length, residency requirements (if any), schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the unit of instruction, cancellation and refund policies, student rights and responsibilities, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the unit of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. Such information shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.*

Detailed admission and program requirements were submitted as part of the program proposal. Information regarding university policies, fees, and related requirements are published in the institution's catalog and on its Web site. The university catalog is also available on this Web site, along with contact information for the department.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that the B.A. in Urban and Public Affairs proposed by the University of Illinois at Chicago meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/et.seq.) as set forth in 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Ch. II, Section 1050.30, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

### **University of Illinois at Chicago**

- Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance

**Background.** The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) seeks to offer the M.S. in Finance degree within the Liautaud Graduate School of Business in the College of Business Administration. The program was developed in response to strong student and professional demand, both locally and nationally. UIC is well-positioned to offer the degree because of its proximity to the financial entities of the Chicago area and because of its excellence in academic programs in the business field. Students and faculty members in the program will benefit from the activities of the financial entities in the metropolitan area and those businesses will also reap positive effects from the program. Financial innovation developed by the leading global financial markets in Chicago, such as the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Board Options Exchange, and Chicago Stock Exchange, generate considerable demand for finance professionals and the College has established a rewarding, mutually benefiting partnership with Chicago's business community. While students further their academic and professional development via mentoring, internships, and contact with a supportive network of alumni, the College aids the growth of local businesses by offering them access to its development programs and strategic outreach centers.

**The Illinois Commitment.** The proposed program will meet several goals of The Illinois Commitment, as summarized below:

*Goal 1: Help Illinois business and industry sustain strong economic growth.* Graduates will be prepared to play an important role in the future development of the state and metropolitan area.

*Goal 3: No Illinois citizen will be denied an opportunity for a college education because of financial need.* The program would be the only master's program offered at a public university in Chicago. This program will be available in a relatively low-cost university that already attracts a diverse body of students.

*Goal 4: Increase the number and diversity of citizens completing training and education.* The diversity of the city of Chicago, and, thus, the diversity of the student body at UIC contribute

to provide an environment that fosters exchange and understanding among the students that will enroll in this program.

*Goal 5: Hold students to even higher expectations for learning and be accountable for the quality of academic programs and the assessment of learning.* Two advisory committees will continuously assess basic skills and areas of knowledge that graduates should possess to be competitive in the current job market.

*Goal 6: Improve productivity, cost-effectiveness, and accountability.* The program will ensure that it is aligned with regional and statewide needs by creating a broad-based Finance External Advisory Committee.

**Comparable Programs in Illinois.** Except for the program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, all other finance programs are available only at private institutions. The proposed program will also emphasize a strong foundation in the financial principles that underlie modern finance practice and expose students to finance research. Many of the other programs are also designed to accommodate the working professional who can complete a program only by enrolling as a part-time student. The proposed program at UIC is designed for individuals who plan to commit as full-time students and desire a shorter calendar-year commitment.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(1): A) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with the mission of the college or university; B) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with what the unit title implies.*

The purpose of the proposed M.S. in Finance is to educate professionals in the field of finance, whether in the public or private sector. The proposed program is consistent with UIC's mission to "strengthen the economic and social vitality of the Chicago metropolitan area through its urban and land grant mission that emphasizes business and industrial development, health care, school improvement, and enhanced opportunities for minority groups."

### **Program Objectives**

The primary objective of the proposed program is to train students for careers in finance and to prepare students to pass the Chartered Financial Analyst exam that is now commonly required for advanced positions. The program objectives are consistent with what the title of the program implies.

### **Curriculum and Assessment**

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(1) [applicable only to units of instruction]: A) The caliber and content to the curriculum assure that the objectives of the unit of instruction will be achieved; B) The breadth and depth of the curriculum are consistent with what the title of the unit of instruction implies; C) The admission and graduation requirements for the unit of instruction are consistent with the stated objectives of the unit of instruction; D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record-keeping.*

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(2): The design, conduct, and evaluation of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are under the direct and continuous control of the sponsoring institution's established processes for academic planning and quality maintenance.*

## Admission

The M.S. in Finance will require students to meet the following admission criteria:

- Earned baccalaureate degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university
- A grade point average of 3.00 (out of 4.00) for the final 60 semester-credit hours of undergraduate study
- Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) test scores completed within five years of the requested date of entry (the minimum expected GMAT score is 600)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Applicants whose native language is not English must also complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores. A minimum score of 585 (paper-based) or 239 (computer-based) is required.

Students must also complete the following courses, or their equivalent, prior to starting the program: Introduction to Corporate Finance, Introduction to Financial Accounting, Statistics for Management, and Microeconomics for Business Decisions. Deficiencies can be addressed by taking these courses at UIC but the time to complete the degree would be increased.

## Curriculum

The M.S. in Finance requires 32 semester-credit hours, 12 of which are required and the remaining are selected from electives. Required courses include investments, corporate finance, and quantitative methods in finance. Students may choose electives from courses such as portfolio analysis, capital markets, empirical issues in finance, financial accounting, and data mining for business. All courses are currently offered through the Liataud College of Business with the exception of the quantitative methods in finance course.

## Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed through examinations, paper assignments, presentations, class participation and projects.

## Program Assessment

Program assessment will be performed by the Finance Committee for Graduate Education and with advisement from the Finance External Advisory Committee. These two committees will assess basic skills and areas of knowledge the graduates should possess to be competitive in the current job market. Assignments, examinations, and student projects will be designed accordingly.

The committees will review a variety of information to determine the status of the program including, but not be limited to, the following:

- Percent pass rate of graduates on end-of-program certification exams
- Percent of graduates employed in the field
- Career advancement achieved by program graduates
- Graduate and employer satisfaction with the program
- Retention and graduation rates
- Percent of students involved in faculty research or other projects
- Percent of graduate students presenting or publishing papers

### **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(4): A) Facilities, equipment, and instructional resources (e.g., laboratory supplies and equipment, instructional materials, computational equipment) necessary to support the high-quality academic work in the unit of instruction, research, or public service are available and maintained; B) Clinical sites necessary to meet the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service; C) Library holdings and acquisitions, owned or contracted for by the institution, that are necessary to support high-quality instruction and scholarship in the unit of instruction, research, and public service, are conveniently available and accessible, and can be maintained.*

With one exception, sufficient office space and classrooms exist to support the proposed program. However, the proposed program will require a new quantitative finance lab. The lab will house data and software resources used in the program. Funds for the lab will be provided by the tuition differential that students will pay as described below. Space for the lab has been designated from existing space. Computers and software will be added as funds become available. In the interim, finance students will use campus computer labs.

### **Library Resources**

The university library and program faculty have determined that the current resources are adequate to support the program.

### **Faculty and Staff**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(3): A) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff to ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are met; B) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff, as evidenced by level of degrees held, professional experience in the field of study and demonstrated knowledge of the field, ensure that they are able to fulfill their academic responsibilities; C) The involvement of faculty in the unit of instruction, research, or public service is sufficient to cover the various fields of knowledge encompassed by the unit, to sustain scholarship appropriate to the unit, and to assure curricular continuity and consistency in student evaluation; D) Support personnel, including but not limited to counselors, administrators, clinical supervisors, and technical staff, which are directly assigned to the unit of instruction, research, or public service, have the educational background and experience necessary to carry out their assigned responsibilities.*

The proposed program will be made available by using existing faculty and staff within the Liautaud Graduate School of Business and the College of Business Administration. Approximately 14 tenured and tenure-track faculty members in the College of Business are qualified to teach courses for the proposed program and the 12 staff members in the Liautaud Graduate School of Business, including the Director of Graduate Studies, will provide

administrative support. A limited number of courses may also be taught by adjunct faculty members with the appropriate qualifications. As enrollment increases, additional faculty members will be hired using revenue from the tuition differential described in the following section.

All faculty and staff will be hired according to university policies and procedures to ensure that each possesses the qualifications necessary to fulfill their responsibilities to the program.

### **Fiscal and Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(5): A) The financial commitments to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are sufficient to ensure that the faculty and staff and support services necessary to offer the unit of instruction, research, or public service can be acquired and maintained; B) Projections of revenues necessary to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are based on supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition, and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

#### **Student Enrollment**

It is expected that the program will enroll 40 students in the first year and 76 students each year thereafter.

#### **Fiscal Resources**

No new state resources are necessary to support the proposed program. The projected budget for the proposed program is \$110,000 during fiscal year 2007. Initial funding for the program will be provided through reallocations from the College of Business Administration. By the third year, the institution anticipates that the program will be generating enough revenue from tuition to support the program.

#### **Faculty and Staff Resources**

As noted above, no new faculty members or staff will be necessary to offer the program. As student demand increases, tuition revenue will be used to hire additional faculty members as needed.

### **Accreditation and Licensure**

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(3) [applicable only to units of instruction]: Appropriate steps have been taken to assure that professional accreditation needed for licensure or entry into a profession as specified in the objectives of the unit of instruction is maintained or will be granted in a reasonable period of time.*

*Programs in which state licensure requires specialized accreditation for students to obtain professional licensure, but which have not yet achieved accreditation, will undergo full review and report to IBHE every three years until accreditation is achieved.*

#### **Accreditation**

No specialized accreditation is available for this program.

## Need

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(6): A) The unit of instruction, research, or public service is educationally and economically justified based on the educational priorities and needs of the citizens of Illinois; B) The unit of instruction, research, or public service meets a need that is not currently met by existing institutions and units of instruction, research, or public service.*

The U.S. Department of Labor and JobBank USA both note that many employers are increasingly seeking graduates with master's degrees because the analytical skills and the latest financial analysis methods and technology that are often covered in such programs are essential in today's working environment. The proposed program at UIC will also prepare students to take the Chartered Financial Analyst exam, which is another commonly preferred credential in higher-level finance positions.

## Program Information

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(2) [applicable only to units of instruction]: The information which the institution provides for students and the public accurately describes the unit of instruction, including its objectives, length, residency requirements (if any), schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the unit of instruction, cancellation and refund policies, student rights and responsibilities, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the unit of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. Such information shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.*

Detailed admission and program requirements were submitted as part of the program proposal. Information regarding university policies, fees, and related requirements are published in the institution's catalog and on their Web site. The university catalog is also available on this Web site, along with contact information for the department.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that the M.S. in Finance proposed by the University of Illinois at Chicago meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/et.seq.) as set forth in 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Ch. II, Section 1050.30, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

## University of Illinois at Chicago

- National Center for Rural Health Professions, off campus in the Fox Valley Region

**Background.** The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) requests permanent approval for the National Center for Rural Health Professions (NCRHP) at the College of Medicine site in Rockford. Statewide and national studies indicate a need for programs that specifically address health professions training and disparities in rural areas and populations. Twenty percent of Americans live in rural areas, but less than 10 percent of health professionals practice in these areas. The Center addresses educational, professional development, research, and outreach needs that will improve access to and quality of care for rural populations. After five years of development under temporary approval status granted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the National Center for Rural Health Professions has put in place the components necessary to be a fully functioning permanent entity.

***The Illinois Commitment.*** The NCRHP’s goals address multiple policy areas of *The Illinois Commitment*:

*Goal 2: Higher education will join elementary and secondary education to improve teaching and learning at all levels.* Partnerships will be developed with middle and high schools to promote careers in the health professions and to help schools to strengthen academic offerings and scholarly activities for students interested in careers in health.

*Goal 4: Increase the number and diversity of citizens completing training and education.* The Center’s programs target rural students as well as underrepresented minority students from rural communities for information and support in health professions career development.

*Goal 5: Hold students to even higher expectations for learning and be accountable for the quality of academic programs and the assessment of learning.* The Center will contribute to the quality of the health professions by providing programs that prepare them specifically for the needs of patients located in rural communities.

**Comparable Programs in Illinois.** There are no other rural health professions centers in Illinois or in the United States.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(1): A) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with the mission of the college or university; B) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with what the unit title implies.*

The mission of the NCRHP is “to enhance the health of rural populations and communities through partnerships in education, service, research, and policy.” The NCRHP will target rural counties and special populations (including underrepresented minorities, infants and young children, older adults, immigrant populations, people with disabilities) in Illinois with a continuing emphasis on underserved areas. Through partnerships and collaboration in research, service, and education, urban underserved areas will also be targeted in the development of programs and policy to meet the needs of the range of underserved populations and communities in Illinois. Models will be developed and partnerships formed with other states and regions in the country in the formation of programs and policy that address national goals and concerns.

The mission of the Center supports the University’s focus statement that reads “UIC has a statewide mission to provide off-campus programs in health sciences and in other areas not generally available through other colleges and universities in the state.” Consistent with the role of a land grant university, the Center at Rockford is also involved in teaching, research, and service/outreach activities focused on issues related to rural health.

### **Organization**

The NCRHP at Rockford is co-directed by the Associate Dean for Rural Health Professions and the Center’s Assistant Director for Faculty Development, who report to the Regional Dean of the College of Medicine and who represent the disciplines of medical sociology and medicine. The co-directors are advised by a Planning and Steering Committee composed of program directors and project coordinators. Through various projects and programs, the Center also includes faculty from partner disciplines, including medicine, pharmacy, nursing, public health, social work, and dentistry. The Center also plans to expand those partnerships to include

faculty from nutrition, occupational therapy, and health education. The Center's operations and activities are supported by a coordinator, business manager, secretarial support, and graduate students.

### **Curriculum and Assessment**

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(1) [applicable only to units of instruction]: A) The caliber and content to the curriculum assure that the objectives of the unit of instruction will be achieved; B) The breadth and depth of the curriculum are consistent with what the title of the unit of instruction implies; C) The admission and graduation requirements for the unit of instruction are consistent with the stated objectives of the unit of instruction; D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record-keeping.*

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(2): The design, conduct, and evaluation of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are under the direct and continuous control of the sponsoring institution's established processes for academic planning and quality maintenance.*

#### **Curriculum**

The curriculum criteria do not apply to centers.

#### **Outcomes and Assessment**

The Center has developed eight goals that will be used to determine the success of the Center as well as specific targets for each goal:

Goal 1. Work with communities to promote careers in rural health professions and recruit students from rural communities into health professions programs.

Goal 2. Facilitate maximum retention of all graduates to make a positive impact on the rural health professions workforce.

Goal 3. Identify, reduce, and eliminate rural health disparities.

Goal 4. Enhance community capacity to identify, prioritize, and address health needs - individually and community-wide.

Goal 5. Enhance faculty research that promotes high-quality programs and services for rural populations.

Goal 6. Develop and implement interdisciplinary teaching models to educate specially prepared health professionals for rural practice.

Goal 7. Prepare fellows and graduate students in research and health professions with an emphasis on rural needs and issues.

Goal 8. Inform policy and influence decision-making regarding allocation and distribution of resources in matters pertaining to rural health.

## **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(4): A) Facilities, equipment, and instructional resources (e.g., laboratory supplies and equipment, instructional materials, computational equipment) necessary to support the high-quality academic work in the unit of instruction, research, or public service are available and maintained; B) Clinical sites necessary to meet the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service; C) Library holdings and acquisitions, owned or contracted for by the institution, that are necessary to support high-quality instruction and scholarship in the unit of instruction, research, and public service, are conveniently available and accessible, and can be maintained.*

The NCRHP is located on the campus of the University of Illinois at Rockford and is part of the University of Illinois College of Medicine. In this location there is sufficient office space, a sufficient number of classrooms (ranging in capacity from 30 to 60 students), conference rooms (9 rooms equipped with TV monitors, VCR, slide and overhead projectors, internet/network connection), a distance learning room, and a 350-seat auditorium.

### **Library Resources**

Library holdings include 45,000 volumes on the Rockford campus and access to 6,000 journals via subscription, covering such areas as medicine, nursing, public health, and allied and consumer health. The library houses a computer lab, with ten PC-compatibles and printers and scanners. There are two professional librarians and Library Sciences has noted in its strategic plan that it is committed to health care and working with health professionals.

## **Faculty and Staff**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(3): A) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff to ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are met; B) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff, as evidenced by level of degrees held, professional experience in the field of study and demonstrated knowledge of the field, ensure that they are able to fulfill their academic responsibilities; C) The involvement of faculty in the unit of instruction, research, or public service is sufficient to cover the various fields of knowledge encompassed by the unit, to sustain scholarship appropriate to the unit, and to assure curricular continuity and consistency in student evaluation; D) Support personnel, including but not limited to counselors, administrators, clinical supervisors, and technical staff, which are directly assigned to the unit of instruction, research, or public service, have the educational background and experience necessary to carry out their assigned responsibilities.*

The NCRHP at Rockford is co-directed by the Associate Dean for Rural Health Professions and the Center's Assistant Director for Faculty Development, who report to the Regional Dean of the College of Medicine. Both have the appropriate degrees and training to carry out the objectives of the Center. The Center staff also includes a coordinator, a business manager, secretarial staff, and graduate students.

The Center provides raises and administrative support, including conference travel, research and technical support, and equipment, for Center-based education and research activities conducted by faculty members. Currently, the Center supports approximately 27 faculty members. All faculty members associated with the Center have the appropriate degrees and training to carry out the objectives of the Center.

## **Fiscal and Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(5): A) The financial commitments to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are sufficient to ensure that the faculty and staff and support services necessary to offer the unit of instruction, research, or public service can be acquired and maintained; B) Projections of revenues necessary to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are based on supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition, and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

### **Fiscal Resources**

Current funding for the NCRHP comes from a combination of external and state funds. Just over 60 percent of the Center's current funding is from the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and recurring funds from the Rural Downstate Health Act (Public Act 87-1162). The remaining funds are provided by the College of Medicine at Rockford. At this time, the Center plans to continue seeking federal and other external funds. The College of Medicine also plans to maintain their level of support for the foreseeable future.

### **Personnel Resources**

The current staff and faculty members described above are adequate to support the Center's activities at this time. However, efforts are under way to incorporate additional faculty members from related areas such as nutrition, occupational therapy, and health education to better meet the needs of rural communities.

## **Need**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(6): A) The unit of instruction, research, or public service is educationally and economically justified based on the educational priorities and needs of the citizens of Illinois; B) The unit of instruction, research, or public service meets a need that is not currently met by existing institutions and units of instruction, research, or public service.*

The NCRHP meets critical statewide and national needs. Nationally, 20 percent of the population resides in rural communities but less than 11 percent of the physician workforce practices in rural communities. The National Institutes of Health recently designated rural as a category for health disparity funding. Access to care in rural areas remains a major problem, including lack of availability of services related to dental and mental health needs. In Illinois, 79 of 102 counties are designated as rural and 90 percent of these are medically underserved, as determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. According to the Bureau of Health Professions of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the state of Illinois ranks 8th in the nation for the number of residents living in health professions shortage areas. In rural areas, the recruitment of family physicians and other providers has not kept pace with rates of retirement from the workforce.

The Center will target rural counties and special populations (including underrepresented minorities, infants and young children, older adults, immigrant populations, people with disabilities) in Illinois with a continuing emphasis on underserved areas. Through partnerships and collaboration in research, service, and education, urban underserved areas will also be targeted in the development of programs and policy to meet the needs of the range of underserved populations and communities in Illinois. Models will be developed and partnerships formed with other states and regions in the country in the formation of programs and policy that address

national goals and concerns. The Center is in a unique position to have an impact on these issues, both in Illinois and nationally.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that the National Center for Rural Health Professions proposed by the University of Illinois at Chicago meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/et.seq.) as set forth in 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Ch. II, Section 1050.30, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

The staff recommends that the Illinois Board of Higher Education adopt the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants the following public university approval to establish the new center and degree programs identified below, subject to the institution's maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted:*

*University of Illinois at Chicago*

- *Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs*
- *Master of Science in Finance*
- *National Center for Rural Health Professions, off campus in the Fox Valley Region*

