

**APPROVED**  
**JUNE 13, 2017**

Item #VI-4  
June 13, 2017

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

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval of two degree programs and administrative units at two public universities.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the following:

Northern Illinois University

- School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions in the Fox Valley Region

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Master of Science in Psychological Science in the Prairie Region
- Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management in the Prairie Region
- Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute



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 units of administration proposed by public university governing boards. The Board's approval criteria, defined in rules adopted for administering the statute, addresses 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 Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, which sets forth new priorities to guide Illinois higher education. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions, and, for advanced degree programs, recommendations of external consultants.

**Executive Summary – Public Institutions**

Northern Illinois University

- School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions

Northern Illinois University requests authorization to establish the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions in the Fox Valley region. The School is designed to focus and strengthen its student support efforts for adult students, underrepresented groups, pre-majors, and majors in the College of Health and Human Sciences to better mentor and advise those students in their occupational preparation and continuing education. The School's instructional staff will provide coursework in foundational knowledge in health and human sciences, specialized content areas including rehabilitation and disability services, and skills development including experimental, collaborative, and research-based learning. The faculty and staff will be shifted from the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders to this newly proposed School. No new State or University funds are requested in this proposal. Operating costs of the School will come from the budgets of the current programs assembled to make up this new school and by internal reallocations of existing funds within the College of Human and Human Sciences and Division of Academic Affairs.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment A.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Master of Science in Psychological Science

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requests authorization to offer a Master of Science in Psychological Science in the Prairie region. The Master of Science in Psychological Science (MSPS) is a 32 credit hour, research-based degree designed to be completed in two years. The MSPS will position graduates for further doctoral study in the field, responding to a growing trend requiring research experience as a condition for admission to the most competitive doctoral programs in psychology. Graduates will have

the knowledge of human behavior and advanced analytical and statistical skills requisite for professional work in education, industry, consultant groups, state governments, federal government, and healthcare systems. There are policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide instruction in the proposed program. The University has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources to support the proposed program.

- Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requests authorization to offer a Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management in the Prairie region. The Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management (MSUM) is a 32 credit hour, non-thesis degree designed to be completed in one year. The MSUM is intended for mid-career professionals working in urban management to provide them with additional analytical and strategic skills and for whom the University's two-year Master of Urban Planning degree is not relevant. Graduates will be positioned for lateral career change in a variety of settings including non-governmental organizations, engineering consulting firms, policy organizations, offices of elected officials, and public agencies. There are policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide instruction in the proposed program. The University has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources to support the proposed program.

- Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requests approval to establish the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute under the auspices of the Vice Chancellor of Research in the Prairie region. The Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute (IHSI) is designed to harness and enhance University-wide expertise and infrastructure toward innovative health research solutions that integrate scientific and technological breakthroughs to transform health care and advance the health sciences. The proposal is grounded in work developed several years ago by the University to develop an Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative to support faculty-driven research by organizing the university around health challenges, team-building, coordinating projects, and managing grant efforts. This initiative has established partnerships with Carle Health System and Mayo Clinic. Given the success of the initiative, the University is now seeking permanent establishment of the initiative as the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute. The IHSI will further position the University as an internationally recognized leader in health sciences research and technology.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusions, follows in Attachment B.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Northern Illinois University authorization to establish the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions in the Fox Valley Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign authorization to establish the Master of Science in Psychological Science in the Prairie Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign authorization to establish the Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management in the*

*Prairie Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign authorization to establish the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute in the Prairie Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*



## Northern Illinois University

### **Proposed Center Title in the Region of Authorization:** School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions in the Fox Valley Region

*Projected Enrollments and Degrees:* This proposal is for the approval of an academic department to target support and resources for students pursuing degrees in health-related occupations including entry-level positions, professional degree programs, or career advancement. The School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions will be an academic department within the College of Health and Human Sciences.

### **Background**

Northern Illinois University (NIU or the University) requests approval to establish a School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions (School). The School is designed to focus and strengthen its student support efforts for adult students, underrepresented groups, pre-majors, and majors in the College of Health and Human Sciences to better mentor and advise those students in their occupational preparation and continuing education. The School's instructional staff will provide coursework in foundational knowledge in health and human sciences, specialized content areas including rehabilitation and disability services, and skills development including experimental, collaborative, and research-based learning. The faculty and staff will be shifted from the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders to this newly proposed School.

### **Institutional Data**

*1050.30(b)(1)(G): provides that success in student progression and graduation, and success rates in programs preparing students for certification and licensure, shall be consistent with expectations in higher education and the appropriate related field of study. At a minimum, the Board shall consider the following factors, based on results for similar institutions: (i) Graduation rates, degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification. (ii) Success rate, which shall be, at a minimum, higher than those of the lowest quartile of these measures for similar Illinois institutions defined as open versus competitive enrollment institutions and primarily associate versus primarily baccalaureate granting institutions. Exceptions may be made to the lowest quartile if an institution is above the national average for these measures using the same comparison categories of institutions.*

No data are provided because available student outcomes information would not be applicable to the establishment of this new unit.

### **Need**

*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 proposed School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions will fill a critical void for those students who need better academic advising and career guidance in order to reach the goal of degree completion. The School will structure support for underrepresented groups, adult students, pre-majors, and majors. Currently, 82 percent of College of Health and Human Sciences are students of color, Pell eligible, and/or first generation college students, and 48 percent of the students enrolled in the College are transfer students. Over the past several years, Northern Illinois University has also experienced a decline in

retention rates for students enrolled in pre-nursing and pre-physical therapy programs (i.e., 48 percent retention versus 54 percent retention rates, respectively). The support structures and guidance provided will target those underserved and high-need student populations in an effort to help bolster retention and degree completion rates in the College of Health and Human Sciences.

### *The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*

The University's proposed School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions will address Goal 1 of *The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. Goal 1 is to *increase educational attainment to match the best performing states*. Within the College of Health and Human Services, the retention rates for the pre-nursing and pre-physical therapy programs are a cause for concern. Through the extra layers of support, intentional advising, faculty collaborations, and mentoring relationships, the School has a pressing goal to improve the retention rates of these pre-majors and the corresponding gap in degree completion. The School's efforts to improve student success will yield better outcomes in terms of degree attainment.

### **Comparable Institutes and Centers in Illinois**

Academic departments similar to the proposed School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions exist throughout the country. Within the application materials, Northern Illinois University provided several benchmark institutions with a comparable School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions. Bradley University is currently the only Illinois institution with such a school.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*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 and objectives of the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions support and are consistent with the mission and the priorities of the University. The four primary areas of the proposed School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions include:

1. Improve retention rates for the revised Health Science major;
2. Increase the numbers of working adults returning to complete their next academic degree for career advancement. And, increase the number of adults enrolled in the health sciences degree;
3. Increase the number of graduates to meet workforce demand by focusing on both successful graduate school entry, job placement, and satisfaction with academic program; and
4. Complement our attention for recruitment, retention, and degree completion with the unit outcomes to include promotion of community-university research collaboration in the northern Illinois region.

### **Assessment of Outcomes**

The School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions will be reviewed in the University's formal program review process. Performance metrics will be monitored as a means to track and assess the School's goals.

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

*1050.30(a)(4): A) Facilities, equipment and instructional resources (e.g., laboratory supplies and equipment, instructional materials, computational equipment) necessary to support 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 School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions will be housed in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Classroom, technology, and library resources are sufficient for the School's needs. Library resources are also already in place since the academic content courses in the College already exist and are supported. No new office or meeting spaces will be needed to accommodate the new School.

### **Faculty and Staff**

*1050.30(a)(3): A) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research or public service are met.*

The School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions will be housed entirely in the College of Health and Human Sciences. The School will have the same structure as other academic departments at the University, with the Department Chair reporting to the Dean, who reports to the Provost. Five faculty members within four academic programs will be moved from the School of Allied Health and Communication Disorders into the proposed School of Interdisciplinary Professions. There will also be dedicated staff structured to support both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

### **Fiscal and Personnel Resources**

*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 upon supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

No new state or University funds are requested in this proposal. Operating costs of the School will come from the budgets of the current programs assembled to make up this new school and by internal reallocations of existing funds within the College of Human and Human Sciences and the Division of Academic Affairs.

### **Accreditation and Licensure**

*1050.30(b)(3): Appropriate steps shall be 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.*

*1050.50(a)(1): Three years after approval of a new program, the institution shall provide a program progress report to the Board as part of the institution's annual report. The third year progress report shall describe the institution's performance in meeting program objectives and show where any improvements are necessary. The placement of a program in voluntary temporary suspension will not negate the requirement of submitting a third year progress report.*

*1050.50(a)(2)(C): Additional Requirement for Programs in which State Licensure is Required for Employment in the Field: In the case of a program in which State licensure is required for employment in*

*the field, a program can be found to be in good standing if the institution is able to provide evidence that program graduates are eligible to take the appropriate licensure examination and pass rates are maintained as specified in the objectives of the unit of instruction. If there is no such evidence, the institution shall report the program as flagged for review.*

No specialized accreditation is required.

### **Program Information**

*1050.30(b)(2)(A): The information the institution provides for students and the public...(B) The information listed in subsection (b)(2)(A) shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment and shall be included in the institution's catalog of programs.*

Information about the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions including a description of the mission and objectives; structure and leadership, will be available on the NIU website.

### **Staff Conclusion**

The staff concludes that the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions proposed by Northern Illinois University meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/et.seq.) as set forth in the Board of Higher Education administrative rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.30), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

## University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Proposed Program Title in the Region of Authorization:** Master of Science Psychological Science in the Prairie Region

*Projected Enrollments and Degrees:* The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign projects the program will increase from approximately 12 students in the first year to 24 students annually in the fifth year. The University projects 12 degrees will be awarded annually beginning in the second year.

### Background

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (the University) requests authority to offer a Master of Science in Psychological Science (MSPS) in the Prairie region. The Master of Science in Psychological Science is a 32 credit hour, research-based degree designed to be completed in two years. The face-to-face program will provide quality advanced instructional and research experiences for students who wish to augment their training in psychology to further enhance their chance of entry to top doctoral programs or who wish to enter professional roles for which a Master of Science in Psychological Science is desirable. Graduates will have the knowledge of human behavior and advanced analytical and statistical skills requisite for professional work in education, industry, consultant groups, state governments, federal government, and healthcare systems.

The University's Department of Psychology currently offers graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Students apply and are admitted to the doctoral program, and the MS is awarded en route to the doctorate. The proposed Master of Science in Psychological Science will be an entirely separate and self-supporting program. The MSPS is being created to address current trends in the field to provide broad analytic and substantive training in cutting edge psychological science. There is need for this degree for students who wish to pursue the increasingly competitive PhD in psychology and want more research experience in order to boost their credentials. There is also increased demand in industry for students with master's-level knowledge and skills. The MSPS program has been formulated to take advantage of existing courses in the Psychology Department with additional specialized professional development courses for the students in the program.

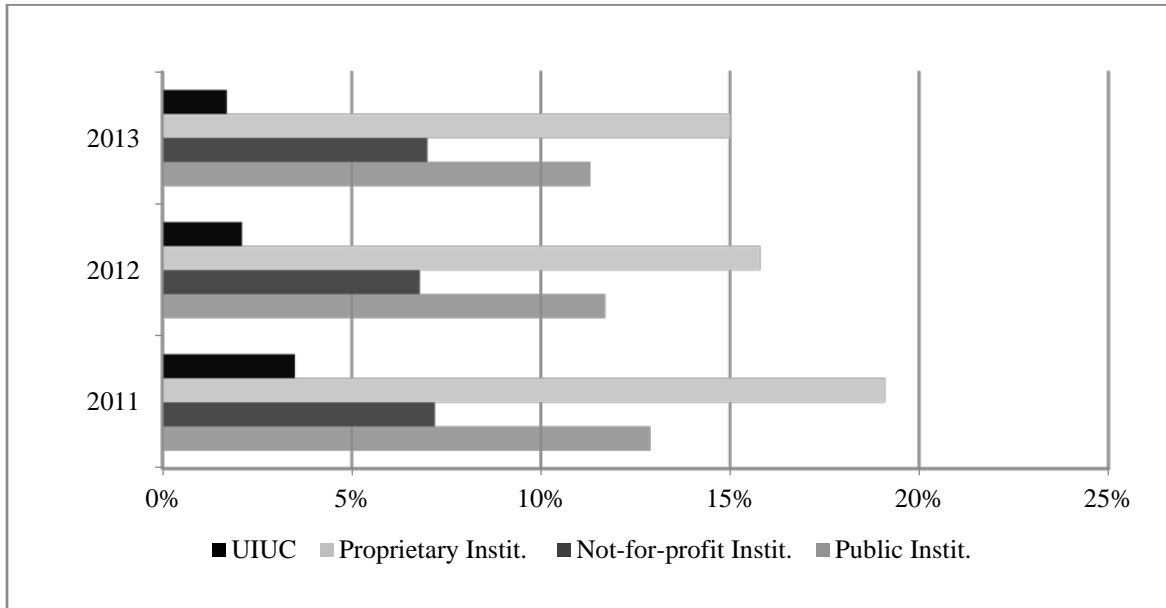
### Institutional Data

*1050.30(b)(1)(G): provides that success in student progression and graduation, and success rates in programs preparing students for certification and licensure, shall be consistent with expectations in higher education and the appropriate related field of study. At a minimum, the Board shall consider the following factors, based on results for similar institutions: (i) Graduation rates, degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification. (ii) Success rate, which shall be, at a minimum, higher than those of the lowest quartile of these measures for similar Illinois institutions defined as open versus competitive enrollment institutions and primarily associate versus primarily baccalaureate granting institutions. Exceptions may be made to the lowest quartile if an institution is above the national average for these measures using the same comparison categories of institutions.*

This section includes information about institutional and student success measures for each institution seeking program approval. The institution's rates will be compared to Illinois institutions from within a select comparison group and against the national standards or averages. For a proposed undergraduate program, this section will include undergraduate graduation rates, first to second year retention rates, student loan default rates, and any applicable licensure passage rates. For a proposed

graduate program, this section will primarily focus on student loan default data since this measure also includes graduate students in the calculation.

### Three Year Cohort Student Loan Default Rate



Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education

Note: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a public institution.

A lower number is a positive indicator.

The three-year student loan default rate for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was 1.7 percent in 2013, 2.1 percent in 2012, and 3.5 percent in 2011. The three-year cohort student loan default rate is the percentage of a school's borrowers who enter repayment on the Federal Family Education Loan Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program loans during a particular federal fiscal year, October 1 to September 30, and default or meet other specified conditions prior to the end of the second following fiscal year. The U.S. Department of Education stated that the Fiscal Year 2013 three-year national cohort default rate was 11.3 percent. The Fiscal Year 2013 three-year national cohort average default rate breakdown by institutional sector is: 11.3 percent for public institutions; 7.0 percent for private non-profit institutions; and 15 percent for proprietary institutions.

### Need

*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 proposed MSPS program is targeted at students who want research and coursework at the graduate level to prepare them for a successful application to a doctoral program or who wish to enter professional roles for which a Master of Science in Psychological Science is desirable. The Department of Psychology's review of applicants to the doctoral program indicates that such a degree program is increasingly common. Interviews of applicants with master's degrees show high satisfaction with the master's program in which they were enrolled, and that they would have been interested in such a program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Psychology Department receives queries every

year about the existence of a freestanding master's program as well as interest from the undergraduates in psychology classes who would be interested in such a program.

There is strong demand for master's level degrees in psychology. A search of the major job recruitment sites with the search term "Master's in Psychology" yielded over 10,000 job listings overall and 422 in the state of Illinois. Jobs for which graduates from the proposed program would be competitive include positions in education, industry, consultant groups, state governments, federal government, and healthcare systems. Examples of these jobs include the following titles: statistician, senior program manager in talent management, deputy commissioner of employment services, employment and training counseling, academic support service associate, research study coordinator, employee assistance program counselor, assistant lab director, market research consultant, and manager in selection and assessment. Companies posting these jobs include Amazon, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Northwestern University, The University of Chicago, the Family Independence Administration of New York, MRCI work source consultants, United Health Group, and Optum.

### ***The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success***

The University indicates that the proposed Master of Science in Psychological Science supports Goals 3 and 4 of *The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. Goal 3 is to *increase high quality credentials to meet economic demand*. The MSPS will provide research experiences that will prepare students for more competitive Ph.D. programs, and will also prepare students for positions seeking individuals with a broad understanding of human behavior and analytic and statistical skills. The program addresses Goal 4 to enhance the *integration of educational, research and innovation assets*. The MSPS will include substantial research opportunities for students in the program. Additionally, the degree will help "prepare students to succeed in the global economy" which is the second strategy of Goal 4. Industry leaders, both domestic and international, look for students with advanced training in research strategy and statistics with the new focus on mining big data sets. Goal 4 also notes the need to "develop, expand, and fund master's degree science interdisciplinary programs focusing on communication and problem skills." The Department of Psychology has many distinct subfields such that students will have the opportunity to select a focus area with broad industry appeal such as industrial/organization psychology or neuroscience.

### **Comparable Programs in Illinois**

There are five master's level programs in psychology at Illinois universities. However, these degree programs typically have an applied focus. There are no comparable master's-level programs with the research focus represented in the MSPS degree proposal.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*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 program supports the University's mission and focus. The proposed program is consistent with the purpose, goals, objectives, and mission of the institution. The requested degree title reflects the degree program objectives and curriculum.

### **Curriculum/Assessment**

*1050.30(b)(1): A) The caliber and content of the curriculum must assure that the objectives of the unit of instruction will be achieved; B) The breadth and depth of the curriculum must be consistent with what the*

*title of the unit of instruction implies; C) The admission and graduation requirements for the unit of instruction must be consistent with the stated objectives of the unit of instruction; D) Institutions must show the capacity to develop, deliver and support academic programs. Procedures and policies that will assure the effective design, conduct and evaluation of the degree program under the academic control of the institution must be developed. Assessment plans must demonstrate that the institution has identified clear and appropriate program and student learning goals and has defined appropriate outcomes. Appropriate data must be collected and may be requested by the Board to show the level of student learning that has occurred as a result of participation in the institution's programs of study; E) Degree programs must meet [appropriate] requirements.*

## Admission Requirements

All applicants are expected to have a minimum grade point average of at least 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate study and a 3.0 GPA for any previous graduate work completed. Applicants enrolled in the final year of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college in the United States or a comparable degree program from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad who meet the GPA requirements will be admitted conditionally pending receipt of final academic credentials showing the undergraduate degree as conferred. In addition, candidates must take the GRE and provide TOEFL scores if English is a second language. International applicants must meet minimum requirements based on their country of origin and as outlined on the University's website. Applicants will only be admitted with the guarantee of appropriate mentorship and training from faculty in the area the student wishes to pursue. The Department of Psychology will train the members of the Graduate Student Education Office to handle the administrative and advising needs of the students in the proposed program.

## Curriculum

The Master of Science in Psychological Science is a 32 hour, research-based degree offered face-to-face. It is designed for students who want research experience augmented by advanced courses in experimental techniques and professional development. The program includes courses in psychological research practices, statistical methods, and a block of twelve hours reserved for electives. Students will use these elective hours to specialize in a subfield of psychology including: Cognitive; Clinical/Community; Developmental; Neuroscience; Industrial/Organizational; Personality; Social; and/or Quantitative Psychology. Students will also complete a professional seminar course that will include assistance and support in the preparation of doctoral program admissions materials as well as career placement assistance for those who plan to enter professional roles.

A master's thesis is not required. However, each student admitted to the program is paired with a faculty advisor/mentor and placed in a research lab based on research interests. Research labs are headed by departmental faculty renowned for their research productivity and produce high-quality journal submissions and national conference presentations. Students in the MSPS will be an integral part of research lab teams. Students will be positioned to complete a publication or presentation within the two years they are in the program.

## Assessment of Student Learning

Assessment of learning is grounded in objectives outlining what students should know and be able to do. Graduates of this program will: (1) exhibit competence in statistical methods and research design; (2) understand the research process including topic development, hypothesis testing, result interpretation, and submission to the peer review process; (3) know broad current research trends and evidence-based methods in the study of human behavior, and; (4) develop a depth of understanding within a given subfield

of psychological science. Assessment of these learning objectives will occur systematically and through multiple methods. Classroom work will be evaluated by grades achieved on assignments (including, for example, papers, final projects, and presentations), and by the evaluation of the classroom instructor as to the student's participation in class, timeliness of assignments and overall contribution to the class. All students are expected to earn an overall GPA of at least a 2.75 in order to graduate.

### Program Assessment

The University has a clearly articulated assessment plan to determine the overall effectiveness of its programs and the degree to which students' learning needs are being met. For the MSPS, the Department of Psychology will engage faculty in an annual review of the program for the purpose of assessing curricula and student outcomes. Trends in student performance will be tracked and solutions developed in order to support student success in targeted areas. In addition, the Psychology Department will track the first placement of graduates including professional roles or entrance into PhD programs, as well as assess employment/academic positions three and five-year post-graduation. The Department has identified the plan to achieve this level of follow-up as well as the staff to carry it out.

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

*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 or public service, are conveniently available and accessible and can be maintained.*

Facilities at the University are sufficient for implementing the proposed Master of Science in Psychological Science. Classroom space, computer resources, and library services are sufficient for the program's needs. The Department of Psychology has determined that a student will only be admitted to the Master of Science in Psychological Science program if there is a faculty researcher/mentor willing and able to work with the student in his/her lab.

### Faculty and Staff

*1050.30(a)(3)(A): The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research or public service are met.*

The University has identified institutional policies that ensure academic professionals hired possess the training, credentials, and other related professional qualifications to provide quality instruction at the institution. A formal faculty evaluation process is in place.

### 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 upon supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

The University has adequate faculty, staff, and other instructional resources to launch and administer the proposed program. The MSPS will be self-supporting through a College- and University-developed model allocating graduate tuition dollars to support the costs of running the program.

### **Accreditation/Licensure**

The proposed program does not require specialized accreditation or licensure.

### **Program Information**

*1050.30(b)(2)(A): The information the institution provides for students and the public...(B) The information listed in subsection (b)(2)(A) shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment and shall be included in the institution's catalog of programs.*

Detailed information about the proposed program, including description of the admission policies, university policies, tuition, fees, and curriculum are provided in the proposal and will be published on the University's website.

### **Staff Conclusion**

The staff concludes that the Master of Science in Psychological Science by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 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 or licensure.

**Proposed Program Title in the Region of Authorization:** Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management in the Prairie Region

*Projected Enrollments and Degrees:* The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign projects the program will increase from approximately three students in the first year to 12 students annually in the fifth year. The University projects three degrees will be awarded annually beginning in the second year.

### **Background**

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requests authority to offer a Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management (MSUM) in the Prairie region. The Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management is a 32 credit hour degree designed to be completed in one year. The MSUM is intended for mid-career professionals working in urban management to provide them with additional analytical and strategic skills and for whom the University's two-year Master of Urban Planning degree is not relevant. Graduates will be positioned for lateral career change in a variety of settings including non-governmental organizations, engineering consulting firms, policy organizations, offices of elected officials, and public agencies.

The University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers a two-year Master of Urban Planning (MUP) program, fully accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, for the purpose of training students for professional urban planning positions. For many years, faculty in the department have discussed the value of adding a one-year master's program not accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board to serve domestic and international students who do not need a fully accredited urban planning degree



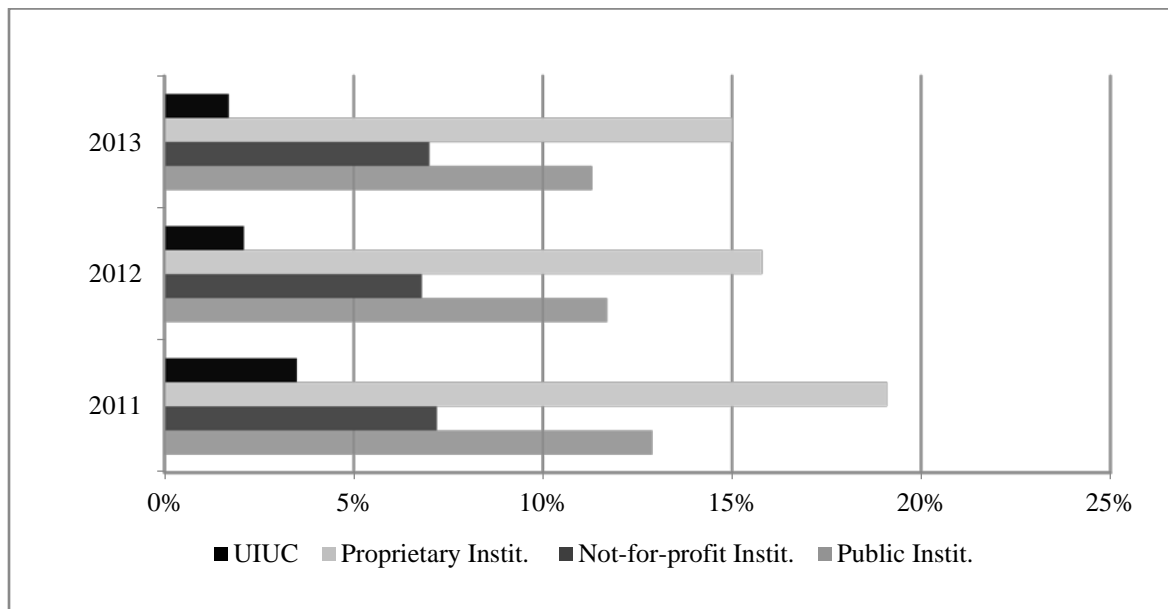
and cannot afford two years of education, but who would benefit from many of the skills and interdisciplinary problem-solving approaches that the Department’s courses offer. Current budget and enrollment trends, along with opportunities of a growing international market for planning skills, provided the impetus to fully develop the proposed MSUM. The MSUM will share resources with the existing MUP and Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning programs.

**Institutional Data**

*1050.30(b)(1)(G): provides that success in student progression and graduation, and success rates in programs preparing students for certification and licensure, shall be consistent with expectations in higher education and the appropriate related field of study. At a minimum, the Board shall consider the following factors, based on results for similar institutions: (i) Graduation rates, degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification. (ii) Success rate, which shall be, at a minimum, higher than those of the lowest quartile of these measures for similar Illinois institutions defined as open versus competitive enrollment institutions and primarily associate versus primarily baccalaureate granting institutions. Exceptions may be made to the lowest quartile if an institution is above the national average for these measures using the same comparison categories of institutions.*

This section includes information about institutional and student success measures for each institution seeking program approval. The institution’s rates will be compared to Illinois institutions from within a select comparison group and against the national standards or averages. For a proposed undergraduate program, this section will include undergraduate graduation rates, first to second year retention rates, student loan default rates, and any applicable licensure passage rates. For a proposed graduate program, this section will primarily focus on student loan default data since this measure also includes graduate students in the calculation.

**Three Year Cohort Student Loan Default Rate**



Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education  
 Note: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a public institution.  
 A lower number is a positive indicator.

The three-year student loan default rate for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was 1.7 percent in 2013, 2.1 percent in 2012, and 3.5 percent in 2011. The three-year cohort student loan default

rate is the percentage of a school's borrowers who enter repayment on the Federal Family Education Loan Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program loans during a particular federal fiscal year, October 1 to September 30, and default or meet other specified conditions prior to the end of the second following fiscal year. The U.S. Department of Education stated that the Fiscal Year 2013 three-year national cohort default rate was 11.3 percent. The Fiscal Year 2013 three-year national cohort average default rate breakdown by institutional sector is: 11.3 percent for public institutions; 7.0 percent for private non-profit institutions; and 15 percent for proprietary institutions.

## **Need**

*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 purpose of the MSUM is to provide a variety of urban professionals—engineers, environmental scientists, administrators and managers – with skills and capabilities in multidisciplinary systems thinking, sustainability, and community engagement, in order to help them perform better at their jobs and enhance their career opportunities. All three areas of study represent topics of growing importance in the 21st century. Continued job growth for urban planners, urban managers, and in related fields is expected. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, employment in urban and regional planning-related occupations is projected to grow by 1.4 percent from 2014 to 2024. Management occupations in general are projected to grow by 4.6 percent and information systems managers by 16 percent in the same time period. Nationally, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in urban planning-related occupations is projected to grow by 6 percent by 2024. A 2012 review by the Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies sustainability as a rapidly growing field, with applicability to a wide variety of occupations, including management, science, and engineering.

## ***The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success***

The University indicates that the proposed Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management supports Goals 1 and 3 of *The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. Goal 1 is to *increase educational attainment*. The MSUM helps to maintain Illinois' competitive educational standing with respect to other states and countries. Few such programs exist with relatively new examples from New York University, Northeastern University, and two European universities (Rotterdam University and the University of Oxford). With this new program, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will be one of the educational leaders in this area and provide an important professional learning path for individuals working in urban management in the United States and internationally.

Goal 3 is to *increase high quality credentials to meet economic demand*. The MSUM will provide an opportunity for students to complete a one-year graduate program with an emphasis on multidisciplinary systems thinking, sustainability, and urban engagement. Graduates will be well-positioned for new professional opportunities in both governmental and non-governmental organizations in the growth area of urban management.

## **Comparable Programs in Illinois**

There are no comparable master's level programs in sustainable urban management in Illinois. The demand for skilled professionals with management expertise is such that the program proposed by the University addresses unmet needs for graduate-prepared individuals in sustainable urban management.

## Mission and Objectives

*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 program supports the University's mission and focus. The proposed program is consistent with the purpose, goals, objectives, and mission of the institution. The requested degree title reflects the degree program objectives and curriculum.

## Curriculum/Assessment

*1050.30(b)(1): A) The caliber and content of the curriculum must assure that the objectives of the unit of instruction will be achieved; B) The breadth and depth of the curriculum must be consistent with what the title of the unit of instruction implies; C) The admission and graduation requirements for the unit of instruction must be consistent with the stated objectives of the unit of instruction; D) Institutions must show the capacity to develop, deliver and support academic programs. Procedures and policies that will assure the effective design, conduct and evaluation of the degree program under the academic control of the institution must be developed. Assessment plans must demonstrate that the institution has identified clear and appropriate program and student learning goals and has defined appropriate outcomes. Appropriate data must be collected and may be requested by the Board to show the level of student learning that has occurred as a result of participation in the institution's programs of study; E) Degree programs must meet [appropriate] requirements.*

### Admission Requirements

All applicants are expected to have a minimum grade point average of at least 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate study and for any previous graduate work completed. Applicants enrolled in the final year of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college in the United States or a comparable degree program from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad who meet the GPA requirements will be admitted conditionally pending receipt of final academic credentials showing the undergraduate degree as conferred. International applicants must meet minimum requirements based on their country of origin and as outlined on the University's website.

### Curriculum

The Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management is a 32 hour program designed to support professionals in developing analytical and strategic skills to manage change in urban areas. The program is comprised of 16 hours of core courses in subjects such as Urban History and Theory, and Urban and Regional Analysis coupled with a two-course sequence in Urban Skills and Applications. Students may also select specialization courses from one of three areas of study: Regional Systems and Informatics, Energy and Environment, or Governance and Community. There is no thesis required for this professional program. Rather, all students will participate in an applied workshop course in their second semester, which will give them experience in applied problem-solving in a real-world environment as well as provide experience in working in multidisciplinary professional teams.

### Assessment of Student Learning

Assessment of learning is grounded in objectives outlining what students should know and be able to do. Graduates of this program will: (1) Understand the basic structures and functions of urban systems; (2) Perform general urban and regional analyses as well as know the major sources of urban and regional data; (3) Be comfortable working in multidisciplinary teams and solving complex urban problems, and; (4)

Have a deeper level of understanding of either regional systems and informatics, energy and environment, or governance and community. Assessment of these learning objectives will occur on a course-by-course basis through class participation, quizzes, exams, and project work within courses. All students will be required to maintain e-portfolios of their work which will be evaluated formatively and summatively for evidence of competence. All students are expected to earn an overall GPA of at least a 2.75 in order to graduate.

### Program Assessment

The University has a clearly articulated assessment plan to determine the overall effectiveness of its programs and the degree to which students' learning needs are being met. For the MSUM, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning will engage faculty in an annual review of the program for the purpose of assessing curricula and student outcomes. Student course evaluations, exit interviews, graduation rates, and analysis of e-portfolio evidence will inform this process. Where issues are identified, faculty will work in task committees to resolve them and inform the department of progress in monthly meetings.

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

*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 or public service, are conveniently available and accessible and can be maintained.*

Facilities at the University are sufficient for implementing the proposed Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management. Classroom space, computer resources, and library services are sufficient for the program's needs. The program will use library resources from the University's City Planning and Landscape Architecture (CPLA) Reference and Resource Center, located in Funk Library. The CPLA collection holds approximately 125,000 volumes with books and reports in planning gathered over a 90-year period since the inception of the Center.

### Faculty and Staff

*1050.30(a)(3)(A): The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research or public service are met.*

The University has identified institutional policies that ensure academic professionals hired possess the training, credentials, and other related professional qualifications to provide quality instruction at the institution. The MS program in Sustainable Urban Management will be supported by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's full faculty, which consists of ten tenured or tenure-track faculty, three full-time lecturers, eight affiliated tenured faculty who teach many of advanced elective courses, and ten adjunct faculty who teach some applied courses and bring valuable urban practice expertise. A formal faculty evaluation process is in place.

### 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 upon supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

The University has adequate faculty, staff, and other instructional resources to launch and administer the proposed program. The program will be directed by the MS in Sustainable Urban Management Program Director, who will be appointed from existing departmental faculty. The director will answer to the head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, who in turn answers to the dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. The MSUM will be self-supporting through a College- and University-developed model allocating graduate tuition dollars to support the costs of running the program.

### **Accreditation/Licensure**

The proposed program does not require specialized accreditation or licensure.

### **Program Information**

*1050.30(b)(2)(A): The information the institution provides for students and the public...(B) The information listed in subsection (b)(2)(A) shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment and shall be included in the institution's catalog of programs.*

Detailed information about the proposed program, including description of the admission policies, university policies, tuition, fees, and curriculum are provided in the proposal and will be published on the University's website.

### **Staff Conclusion**

The staff concludes that the Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management proposed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 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 or licensure.

**Proposed Center Title in the Region of Authorization:** Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute in the Prairie Region

*Projected Enrollments and Degrees:* This proposal is to establish the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute (IHSI). IHSI is not directly involved in instruction, but has instituted programs for educating high school, undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students through various fellowship, scholarship, and technical course opportunities in the health sciences. Many of these opportunities place students in unique lab or clinical research settings that give them valuable, hands-on experience.

### **Background**

The mission of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute is to harness and enhance University-wide expertise and infrastructure toward establishing the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a leading provider of innovative health research solutions, and as an internationally recognized leader in health sciences research and technology. The University developed the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative a number of years ago to support faculty-driven research by organizing the University around

health challenges, team-building, coordinating projects, and managing grant efforts. The initiative fuses technological advances with health science research and fosters medical breakthroughs to help advance the health sciences. The initiative has established partnerships with Carle Health System and Mayo Clinic to integrate scientific and technological breakthroughs with patient-centered approaches and clinical applications that advance and transform health care. The initiative has been successful in furthering its goals and is now sufficiently robust to seek permanent establishment as the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute.

### **Institutional Data**

*1050.30(b)(1)(G): provides that success in student progression and graduation, and success rates in programs preparing students for certification and licensure, shall be consistent with expectations in higher education and the appropriate related field of study. At a minimum, the Board shall consider the following factors, based on results for similar institutions: (i) Graduation rates, degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification. (ii) Success rate, which shall be, at a minimum, higher than those of the lowest quartile of these measures for similar Illinois institutions defined as open versus competitive enrollment institutions and primarily associate versus primarily baccalaureate granting institutions. Exceptions may be made to the lowest quartile if an institution is above the national average for these measures using the same comparison categories of institutions.*

No data are provided because available student outcomes information would not be applicable to the establishment of this new unit.

### **Need**

*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.*

As the global healthcare system undergoes transformation driven largely by an aging population, there is greater need for technological advances in medicine and bioengineering that will provide better healthcare at a lower cost. The IHSI will fuse technological advances with health science research and foster medical breakthroughs to help advance the health sciences.

### *The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*

The IHSI will support Goal 1 of the *Public Agenda to increase educational attainment*. IHSI will provide the critical hub for empowering and catalyzing the integration of health science and technology-related research University-wide. IHSI is not directly involved in instruction, but has instituted programs for educating high school, undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students through various fellowship, scholarship, and technical course opportunities in the health sciences. Many of these opportunities place students in unique lab or clinical research settings that give them invaluable, hands-on experience. Participants in these unique student training opportunities within health sciences research will enhance their knowledge and credentials, positioning them well for further study or employment opportunities.

Goal 4 is *to better integrate Illinois' educational, research, and innovation assets to meet economic needs of the state and its regions*. IHSI will link researchers at the University with clinicians and clinical partners (including Carle Health System, Mayo Clinic, and University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine) to synergize health sciences research in ways that benefit the state and national population (e.g., fusing health science research with technological advances to foster medical breakthroughs). The three

main research areas supported by IHSI (i.e., Precision Medicine, Clinical and Translational Neuroscience, and Cancer) align directly with the three largest recent research initiatives announced at the federal level such as the White House's Precision Medicine Initiative; National Institutes of Health's BRAIN Initiative, and the National Cancer Moonshot 2020.

### **Comparable Institutes and Centers in Illinois**

The Institute is uniquely situated to coalesce and enhance the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's far-reaching excellence in health science and technology. As such, the IHSI will facilitate innovative research and training, contribute to the research success of the new Carle Illinois College of Medicine, grow the University's research funding portfolio, and improve the health of the University and the community. The IHSI will make the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign a major health sciences research destination and serve as an economic engine for the community and the state.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*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 Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute (IHSI) is to harness and enhance University-wide expertise and infrastructure toward establishing the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a leading provider of innovative health research solutions, and as an internationally recognized leader in health sciences research and technology. These efforts may generate grant funding and help sustain the University's outreach and service mission, both of which meet the University's strategic objectives.

### **Assessment of Outcomes**

The outcomes and criteria of success for IHSI are determined on an ongoing basis by the IHSI Advisory Committee (IHSAC) and the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR). IHSI's success in fulfilling its mission is monitored via weekly internal meetings, monthly internal administrative-core meetings, a monthly meeting with the IHSAC, annual reports to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, and annual budget meetings with the VCR. In addition, IHSI's Assistant Director will meet monthly to discuss financial activities with the Assistant VCR. The IHSI Director will meet monthly with the VCR, the Campus Research Administrators Working Group, and Institute directors.

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

*1050.30(a)(4): A) Facilities, equipment and instructional resources (e.g., laboratory supplies and equipment, instructional materials, computational equipment) necessary to support 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 University has adequate facilities to support the Institute.

## **Faculty and Staff**

*1050.30(a)(3): A) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research or public service are met.*

The IHSI, as an institute, will continue to report to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research as it does in the current structure as the Illinois Health Science Initiative. The current IHSI Director is a professor in Department of Psychology and is responsible for the IHSI's overall mission, activities, and budget. He was hired as the founding Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative Director in 2014 as the result of a University-wide search and with the input of University deans, directors, and leadership. The Director reports directly to the Vice Chancellor for Research and will continue that reporting structure when the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute is formally approved and established. In addition, an IHSI Advisory Committee was established in 2010 to meet monthly and serve as the primary advisory committee to the Director. It is comprised of senior faculty, including department heads and unit directors from across the University. IHSAC members provide IHSI with their insights on campus strengths, opportunities, and needs in the health sciences, as well as on the landscape for federal and other research funding. The Institute will also be staffed by a program coordinator, research development manager, and two research development specialists that will manage logistics surrounding new research initiatives involving campus faculty and stakeholders.

## **Fiscal and Personnel Resources**

*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 upon supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

As the Illinois Health Sciences Initiative, IHSI currently has a budget under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research consisting of the long-standing budget commitment of the Division of Biomedical Sciences (DBS), which IHSI subsumed in 2014, and additional funding provided by the Provost's office. This arrangement will continue with the establishment of the Institute. No new state funding is sought.

## **Accreditation and Licensure**

*1050.30(b)(3): Appropriate steps shall be 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.*

*1050.50(a)(1): Three years after approval of a new program, the institution shall provide a program progress report to the Board as part of the institution's annual report. The third year progress report shall describe the institution's performance in meeting program objectives and show where any improvements are necessary. The placement of a program in voluntary temporary suspension will not negate the requirement of submitting a third year progress report.*

*1050.50(a)(2)(C): Additional Requirement for Programs in which State Licensure is Required for Employment in the Field: In the case of a program in which State licensure is required for employment in the field, a program can be found to be in good standing if the institution is able to provide evidence that program graduates are eligible to take the appropriate licensure examination and pass rates are*



*maintained as specified in the objectives of the unit of instruction. If there is no such evidence, the institution shall report the program as flagged for review.*

Specialized accreditation is not required for this institute.

### **Program Information**

*1050.30(b)(2)(A): The information the institution provides for students and the public...(B) The information listed in subsection (b)(2)(A) shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment and shall be included in the institution's catalog of programs.*

Information about the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute including a description of the mission, objectives, and structure will be available on the University website.

### **Staff Conclusion**

The staff concludes that the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute proposed by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/et.seq.) as set forth in the Board of Higher Education administrative rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.30), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

