

APPROVED
March 15, 2023



John Lynch
Interim General Counsel

Item #G-2
March 15, 2023

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

Submitted for:

Action.

Summary:
university.

This item requests approval of one degree program at one public

Action Requested:

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the following:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- Master of Science in Forensic Sciences in the Southwestern 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 (IBHE) 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 *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*, which sets forth priorities to guide Illinois higher education. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions.

Executive Summary – Public Institutions

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- Master of Science in Forensic Sciences in the Southwestern Region

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE or the University) is seeking authorization to offer a Master of Science in Forensic Sciences in the Southwestern Region. This program will be a collaboration between the Illinois State Police (ISP) and three departments at SIUE: Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Chemistry. The cross-curricular collaboration amongst the departmental faculty members of Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Chemistry will allow students to specialize in a focus area of Forensic Biology or Forensic Chemistry while pursuing this degree.

The 42-semester credit-hour program is designed to provide training and expertise for graduates to become scientists, administrators, laboratory directors, and professionals in a variety of forensic science areas at the local, state, or federal levels. The program was designed to meet the standards of the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). SIUE will pursue FEPAC approval when able to do so. 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 in place to support the program.

The University has laid out equity strategies to close gaps in who enrolls, persists, and completes degrees in the field. SIUE is focused on recruitment, retention, and mentoring initiatives to improve the promotion of the program and the graduation of students. These new recruitment efforts include building relationships with institutions such as Chicago State University and Harris-Stowe State University, a historically black college and university located in St. Louis, Missouri. Both institutions have a high concentration of underrepresented students, and SIUE will partner with them to create enrollment pipelines to increase opportunities for those institutions' students to be admitted

to the proposed master's degree program and to build a diverse and well-trained graduate to the forensic science community.

The structured, mentor-style, thesis-based program will lend faculty to cultivate individual student relationships that encourage student support and success in the classroom as well as the career field. The students in the proposed program will be integrated into SIUE initiatives that promote community awareness, social justice, and social reform while connecting with faculty in the Southern Illinois University Carbondale School of Law. Student participation is designed to create an inclusive community to help support the retention of diverse students. Overall, this immersive experience will build future professionals with a background to identify and address societal inequities. Other high-impact practices include collaborative interactions with the forensic science professionals from the ISP throughout the curriculum which allows for real-world examples in instruction. Students in the program will be strongly encouraged and supported to participate in forensic science internships. Embedded strategies exist within the University for student support including The Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development Hub; The Military and Veteran Resource Center; The Office of Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support; and the Graduate School. The University also offers various forms of financial support, including the Graduate Scholar Award, research grants, and travel/presentation grants. Some of these awards are designated for underrepresented students in a master's level graduate program.

The approval request summary, including the staff conclusion, follows in Attachment A.

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville authorization to grant the Master of Science in Forensic Sciences in the Southwestern 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.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Proposed Degree Title in the Region of Authorization: Master of Science in Forensic Sciences in the Southwestern Region

Projected Enrollments and Degrees:

First Year Enrollment	Fifth Year Enrollment	Degrees Awarded Fifth Year
5	10	5

Background

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE or the University) is seeking authorization to offer a Master of Science (MS) in Forensic Sciences in the Southwestern Region. This program is a collaboration between the Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Chemistry departments at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the Illinois State Police (ISP). The program is designed to educate students in the nine primary areas of Forensics Sciences while allowing each student to specialize in Forensic Biology or Forensic Chemistry. The hands-on opportunities for laboratory, internships, and research will be central to this program. Students will have the benefit of real-world connections with ISP and their forensic science professionals and their true-life examples. Graduates will be prepared for careers at the local, state, or federal levels.

SIUE created a plan for the Master of Science in Forensic Sciences which provides a continued higher education opportunity for current SIUE students in the Forensic Sciences minor while creating a supportive recruitment pipeline for diverse student populations from throughout Illinois and the metro-St. Louis region. The structured, mentor-style, thesis-based program will lend faculty to cultivate individual student relationships that encourage student support and success in the classroom as well as the career field. Students in the Forensic Sciences program will be integrated into the SIUE initiative for community awareness, social justice, and social reforms. This programmatic inclusion is a vital step in helping students identify and learn how to address systematic inequity in society and potentially in their own future employment areas.

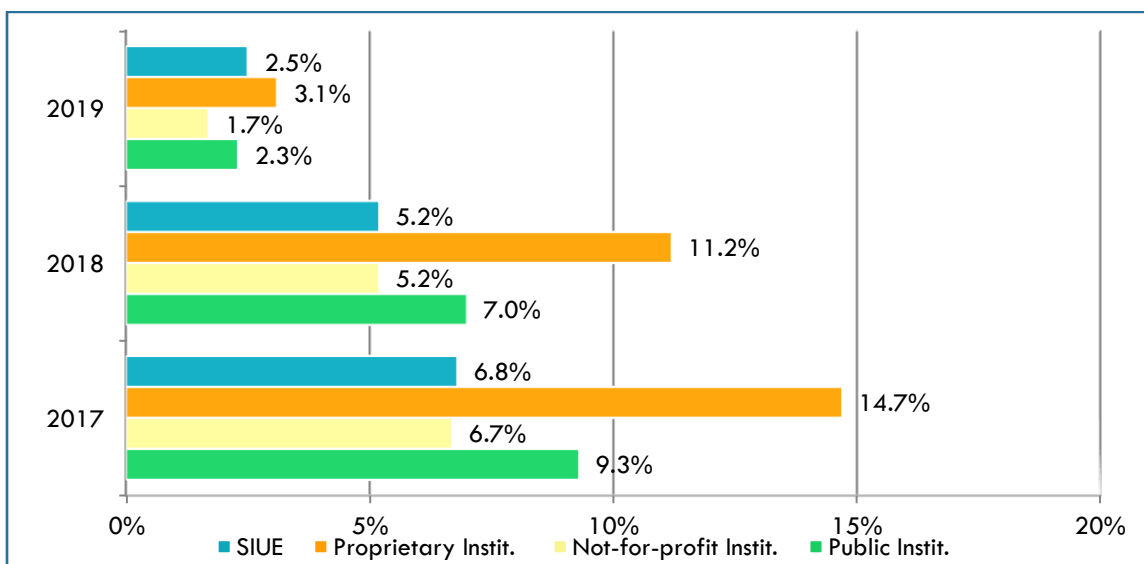
Institutional Data

1050.30(b)(1)(H): Success in student progression and graduation rates across all existing approved programs, 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 these factors based on results for similar institutions. (i) Graduation rates, certificate and degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification aligned with thresholds set by State nor national regulatory bodies. (ii) The success rate 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), US Department of Education

Note: The national cohort default rate for Fiscal Year 2019 was 2.3%.

A lower number is a positive indicator.

The three-year cohort student loan default rate is the percentage of a school's borrowers who enter repayment on certain 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.

Need

1050.30(a)(6): A) The unit of instruction, research or public service is educationally and economically consistent with the educational priorities and needs of the State 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 original interest in a Forensic Science Master's program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville was spurred by collaboration on a Forensic Studies Strategic Plan from the Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, and Criminal Justice academic departments in 2009. In 2020, with industry support, provided by an introduction of a partnership between the Illinois State Police and SIUE this program was developed. This program is designed to meet the talent needs of the ISP, a top employer for forensic science graduates in the State of Illinois. ISP is an organization focused on public service in the State of Illinois, so by collaboration, the State benefits on multiple fronts.

A variety of positions for graduates in forensic science exist, from compliance officers, forensic science technicians, fire inspectors and investigators, detectives, and criminal investigators. According to EMSI, a labor market analytics firm with the Strada Education Network, which compiles employment market outlook projections after analyzing government data sources from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the US Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Midwest had 16,196 job openings for individuals with a forensic science master's degree. This area is expected to have a 3.1 percent increase in job openings through 2025, with an expected 1,356 positions open each year in the Midwest. The median annual salary was \$68,400, or \$32.89 per hour. This is seven percent lower than the national average of \$73,200, or \$35.22 per hour.

The main supplier of master's-prepared forensic science workforce talent in Illinois is located at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). UIC offers the only Master of Science in Forensic Sciences in the State, and it is accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC), sponsored by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. UIC's program is offered within its School of Pharmacy, which allows students a focus in Toxicology or Forensic Science. In 2020, UIC graduated eight students from that program and had an enrollment of 13. The only other accredited MS Forensic Science programs in the upper Midwest include Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. The sparsity of programs leaves a talent void in Illinois, but especially in the southern Illinois region for well-trained forensic science graduates. The data from job opening projections and the interest in a collaborative partnership with ISP indicates an employment demand for highly-trained forensic science professionals. The demand for forensic science education is evident on the SIUE campus, with over 100 students registered for the forensic science minor. The proposed Master of Science in Forensic Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will help meet the demand, from both students and industry, for professionals in the primary public service-focused field.

A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth

A Thriving Illinois strategic plan aims to address the present and future aims, needs, and requirements of higher education in Illinois through achieving a higher education ecosystem that reinforces equity, sustainability, and growth (110 ILCS 205/6) (from Ch. 144, par. 186) Sec. 6).

The proposed Master of Science in Forensic Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville supports all three pillars of *A Thriving Illinois*. SIUE's MS program supports Goal 1, *Equity of A Thriving Illinois to close the equity gaps for students who have historically been left behind*. The program is designed to close equity gaps in access, progression, completion, and attainment while building a campus of high-impact and intentional student and community support practices for a diverse student, faculty, and staff population who have historically been left behind. Building the structures for both students and faculty allows SIUE to advance success in equity, sustainability, and growth.

Equity strategies have been designed at both the programmatic and University levels. The University's new strategic plan emphasizes access and opportunity with inclusive excellence. The Forensic Sciences faculty, along with faculty from Biology, Chemistry, and Anthropology have developed a plan which involves their direct outreach and relationship-building to targeted institutions that have a concentration of minority or underrepresented students. The goal is to focus on building relationships with partner universities in Illinois and in the St. Louis Metropolitan area to create a pipeline of diverse students for the MS program. The academic program will also collaborate with the University undergraduate, underrepresented student support-serving programs

such as the *Student Opportunities for Academic Results, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Research Assistants and Associates*, and the *Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars* program to find current SIUE undergraduates for continued enrollment at SIUE.

Individual mentoring is a large component of the Forensic Sciences student success strategies developed by the faculty for the MS program. Enrolled students will be individually mentored and advised, both academically and professionally. Mentors will be both faculty and affiliated members of ISP. The students in the program will be incorporated into a university initiative that will include community awareness, social justice, and social reform. This initiative will include faculty from SIUE's Criminal Justice department and Southern Illinois University Carbondale's School of Law. This collaborative initiative will help shape future leaders in Forensic Science. This program will produce graduates who have a high likelihood of becoming future ISP staff. Student participation in this initiative has a high probability of influencing the future of ISP work, culture, and environment.

The University has various support services for non-traditional, first-generation, military, and diverse-learning style students such as *The Inclusive Excellence, Education, and Development Hub*, *Military and Veteran Resource Center*, and the *Office of Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support*. Through both formal channels, such as orientations, and informal relationships, such as networking and community building, new, incoming graduate students are encouraged to become involved with services and research projects around campus that are based on student interests and availability.

The Master of Science in Forensic Sciences is focused on building opportunities founded in high-impact practices. The University's new strategic plan emphasizes access and opportunity for historically underserved students for focused and improved student learning, persistence, and graduation. The high-impact practices are central to the University's commitment to inclusive excellence. The Quality Initiative project is exclusively focused on improved retention, graduation, and well-being of Black students. The University has set a goal to develop a high-impact practices hub, a centralized web space of all university high-impact practices, both academic and co-curricular, which will be inventoried and made accessible for students to engage.

The collaborative nature of the program between ISP and SIUE serves as a featured high-impact program hallmark. This relationship will allow students and faculty to collaborate with practicing forensic science professionals who will bring real-world examples and situations into the curriculum. Curricular components include courses in thesis creation, seminar surveys, and required participation in a public presentation of thesis work. Students will be strongly encouraged and supported to participate in a high-quality internship. Internships will be screened and managed by the Director of the Forensic Science Program with close involvement from ISP and their lab facilities throughout the state. SIUE will actively connect students with "high-quality" internships through established professional networks. Internships will be determined to be "high-quality" when locations have certification or are accredited laboratories that are recognized by national standards organizations. Through these various components, students will become immersed in professional literature, hands-on experience, rich field sites, communication with practicing professionals, critiques, and discussion of advanced topics in the field which will lead to career placement opportunities. These high-impact, hands-on learning experiences will be available to all students at the ISP's Forensic Science Institute, located at the new Southwestern Illinois Justice and Workforce Development Campus, developed in partnership with SIUE, the City of Belleville, Southwestern Illinois College, ISP, and others.

The proposed MS program will contribute to Goal 2 – Sustainability to *build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions by finding ways to reduce the financial burden of education on students and their families*. Southern Illinois Edwardsville is competitively priced for tuition and fees with an annual tuition and fee rate of \$8,251 for both in-state and out-of-state students.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has several programs in place for graduate students to achieve academic goals with financial support. The Graduate Scholars Award is a scholarship for academically qualified, underrepresented students in a master's level graduate program for two academic terms. The Competitive Graduate Award provides a research assistantship with a stipend. The University also provides support for thesis research through Research Grants for Graduate Students along with Travel and Presentation Grants to help facilitate interactions and presentation of research results at professional meetings or conferences. Besides directly funding the activities stated, thereby reducing the cost of education, they can help support underrepresented students to gain valuable experiences that can help build professional networks and resumes which may not have previously been accessible to them.

The proposed Master of Science in Forensic Sciences will also contribute to Goal 3, Growth, to *increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth*. SIUE has many longstanding community and industry partnerships for the benefit of its students and the economic engine of Illinois. The collaboration between the various academic departments and the Illinois State Police – Forensic Science Command sets a precedent for academic and industry collaboration for the benefit of the community and economic growth. The job market analysis completed by EMSI, an affiliate of the Strada Education Network, reported that between September 2020 and August 2021, Illinois had the largest number of unique job postings in forensic sciences (compared to Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, and Minnesota). Chicago is the largest location of those openings. ISP indicated that there is a need for forensic science professionals to fill positions in the downstate regions. SIUE's Associate Provost, Dr. Elza Ibroscheva is serving on the Illinois Forensic Science Commission Training and Career Development Subcommittee. This subcommittee is a collaboration that convenes, including UIC and other undergraduate forensic science program providers, in order to understand and coordinate efforts to recruit and train undergraduate and graduate students entering the workforce. There is a void in central and southern Illinois for a talent base of forensic science-trained individuals. Currently, the talent pool is in Chicago, primarily graduating from UIC. The committee's work has highlighted how the demand for forensic science professionals outpaces the graduates from UIC. SIUE is poised to be a leader and fill an important gap in the industry for well-trained professionals in downstate Illinois. By creating a talent pipeline in the Southwestern region, SIUE is helping produce graduates with a high likelihood of employment in Illinois, with ISP and other agencies who have expressed a need for talent in the region, helping enhance the economic engine in Illinois when graduates reside in Illinois with a well-paying job.

The program is poised to help students prepare for positions at local, state, and federal levels. The National Institute of Justice has called for an increase in forensic science professionals and standardization of methods. The planned accreditation by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission supports the inclusion of best practices in the curriculum, so SIUE will be producing graduates who need considerably less on-the-job training than students who do not complete a Master's degree in Forensic Sciences from an accredited program, making them more competitive in the job market.

Comparable Programs in Illinois

Currently, there is only one other master's program in Illinois offered by the University of Illinois at Chicago. This program is offered in person. There are no other institutions that have a master's-level degree in Illinois. UIC and SIUE are both serving on the Illinois Forensic Science Commission Training and Career Development Subcommittee. The subcommittee has discussed the need for a program in southern Illinois, as a direct result of a request from ISP.

Institutions	Enrollment and Degree Award, Fall 2020			Region
	Accreditation	Enrollment	Degrees Awarded	
Public				
University of Illinois Chicago	Full	13	8	Chicago

Source: IBHE Program Inventory

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

Curriculum and Assessment

1050.30(b)(1) [applicable only to units of instruction]: 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 programs 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.

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 Requirements

Applicants interested in the proposed Master of Science in Forensic Sciences must meet requirements established by SIUE's Graduate School. Applicants must submit an official program application, application fee, and official transcripts. Academic admission requirements include a bachelor's degree in a Physical, Life, or Forensic Science related field. Pre-medical degrees will be considered. The student's overall GPA should be a 3.0/4.0 scale. At least two letters of recommendation should be included. The proposed program will not require applicants to take the Graduate Record Exam, allowing for a more equitable review of program applicants. Applicants

with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.8 may be considered with a personal statement explaining their performance, why they will be successful in the program, and whether their previous coursework was more than four years ago. This will allow returning professionals, non-traditional students, and those who had previous academic issues an opportunity to be admitted to the graduate program.

Curriculum

The proposed Master of Science in Forensic Sciences meets the curricular requirement to become a FEPAC-accredited program that adheres to rigorous preparation and follows national standards of the forensic science community. Students will study in a face-to-face format to maximize the opportunities presented in the laboratory exercises. Case studies are incorporated into all classes. All students will study the foundational pieces of forensic science in the core courses which are 33 semester credit hours of the 42-credit hour total, including criminalistics, investigations of latent fingerprints and ballistics, court procedures, data analysis, forensic chemistry, forensic science research, toxicology, forensic biology, quantitative methods in biological science, and thesis research and preparation. Students will have the opportunity to select nine additional semester credit hours in graduate work in Anthropology, Biology, or Chemistry for a total of 42 semester credit hours for the degree. An internship is strongly encouraged but not required for the program. Additionally, all students will complete a thesis project which will conclude with a public presentation of their research findings.

Assessment of Student Learning

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has established systematic processes to analyze student learning outcomes. Direct measures include assignments and exams in core forensic science courses. The assignments will focus on a student's ability to apply concepts to specific problems. Exams will focus on the theory of specific techniques and methodologies. The laboratory experiences assess the student's proficiency with experimental techniques and their ability to summarize information in written communications. Written and oral communication assessments are gathered at several points including in laboratory courses, two seminar courses, and at the thesis defense. Through the thesis, students are expected to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge at the conclusion of the program in the nine essential areas of forensic science including crime scene investigation, law/science interface, ethics and professional responsibility, quality assurance, analytical chemistry and instrumental methods of analysis, drug chemistry/toxicology, microscopy and materials analysis, forensic biology, and pattern evidence. Students will be able to articulate and demonstrate knowledge of forensic science while being able to write and present research findings to professionals.

Program Assessment

Program assessment will be ongoing. The Program Director will compile an annual graduate report to the entire program faculty for review and discussion to identify weaknesses or opportunities for improvement. The annual report will summarize data from student examination grades, course grades, graduation progress meetings, and exit surveys. Long-term trends will be tracked using each year's graduate program performance report to identify student issues that have improved or are slow to improve. Annual reports will be reviewed by representatives of the Illinois State Police to evaluate the quality and relevance of the program from the perspective of practicing forensic professionals. Surveys of other employers and program graduates will also be conducted.

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

Existing facilities are sufficient for implementing the proposed program. In conjunction with ISP, space will be renovated at a satellite campus in Belleville, Illinois, for components of the program. The facility is adjacent to the ISP Forensic Science Lab, and funds have already been acquired for this renovation. The University possesses appropriate library resources with access to online databases, books, journal holdings, and other electronic resources, to support research, teaching, and scholarly work.

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. 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. At a minimum, faculty shall have a degree from an institution accredited by a U.S. Department of Education and/or Council for Higher Education Accreditation recognized accrediting body or a degree from another country evaluated for U.S. equivalency in the discipline they will teach or for which they will develop curricula at least one level above that of the courses being taught or developed. 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. E) Support personnel, including but not limited to counselors, administrators, clinical supervisors, and technical staff, that 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 University has identified institutional policies that ensure faculty and staff hired possess the training, credentials, and other related qualifications to provide instruction at the institution. Faculty teaching in the proposed program will have the appropriate qualifications. A formal faculty evaluation process is in place.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville deploys strategic advertising practices to build a diverse and talented applicant pool for its faculty and staff position openings. Open positions are being shared and faculty are being recruited from various sources including *Academic Diversity Search*, focused on women and underrepresented groups in higher education, *HigherEd Jobs*, and the *American Academy of Forensic Sciences*. The University has support structures built in place to help faculty transition to the University and meet professional expectations for performances and promotion. Faculty have a formal mentoring program for tenure-track faculty for formal and informal guidance and feedback for professional expectations and opportunities. Non-tenure track faculty have the support of the mentoring committee and provides guidance and support for expectations for teaching, scholarship, and service. New program faculty members will have the support of the other faculty working in the program to understand the University and expectations.

Underrepresented faculty and staff members are also connected with the University's Black Faculty and Staff Association to build a community. All of the combined efforts will lead to an increase of diverse faculty and staff members therefore creating an environment which represents the diversity of the community and a welcoming environment for underserved students.

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

The University has adequate resources to launch the proposed program. SIUE will need to hire two faculty members. One will serve as a Program Director, as specified by FEPAC, and one full-time instructor. The other academic departments in the collaboration, Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Chemistry, will teach the additional courses. One administrative assistant will be hired to help coordinate program administration and internship placements.

Accreditation and Licensure

1050.30(b)(3)[applicable only to units of instruction]: 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.

The institution will seek specialized accreditation through the Forensic Sciences Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). The earliest SIUE is eligible to apply for accreditation is after the second class of students graduates.

Program Information

1050.30(b)(2)[applicable only to units of instruction]: A) The information which the institution provides for students and the public shall include the following: i) An accurate description of the unit of instruction, including its objectives, length, and residency requirements if any; ii) Schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the unit of instruction, cancellation and refund policies; iii) Student rights and responsibilities; iv) A statement regarding the transferability of college credits, including the fact that the decision to accept transfer credits is determined by the receiving institutions; v) A statement as to how the institution will advise students on the nature of the transfer process, including the importance of consulting with institutions to which the student may seek to transfer; vi) Evidence of arrangements for the transfer of courses or credits or both to institutional counterparts, when these arrangements exist; these arrangements are also known as articulation agreements; vii) A statement of the institution's most recent graduation rates and the number of graduates and enrollments as provided by the institution to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and any submission of data to satisfy Board reporting requirements; and viii) Other material facts concerning the institution and the unit of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. 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 a 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 in the catalog.

Staff Conclusion

The staff concludes that the Master of Science in Forensic Sciences degree proposed by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 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.