

## COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, September 10, 2010

### DECISION ITEM A-2:

#### Master of Physician Assistant Studies To Be Offered by Indiana University through its IUPUI Campus

#### Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve the Master of Physician Assistant Studies to be offered by Indiana University through its IUPUI campus, in accordance with the background discussion in this agenda item and the *Abstract*, August 27, 2010; and

That the Commission recommend no new state funds, in accordance with the supporting document, *New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary*, August 27, 2010.

#### Background

At its February 2010 meeting, the Commission approved the first degree program in the public sector – an M.S. degree at Indiana State University – to prepare Physician Assistants (PAs). That program was projected to graduate 30 PAs per year at a steady rate, which was projected to be achieved by year three of the program's operation. Two independent institutions – Butler University and the University of St. Francis – also have such programs. Butler began preparing Physician Assistants through its baccalaureate program in 1996, but in 2005 implemented a master's program to prepare Physician Assistants. Butler has graduated an average of 33 Physician Assistants over the past ten years. The University is currently admitting about 50 students per year.

As indicated at the February Commission meeting, Indiana has the third lowest ratio of physician assistants per million population (98 PAs/million population); only Arkansas and Mississippi have lower ratios (54 and 29, respectively). In the 12-state MHEC region, two-thirds of the states have PA-to-population ratios that fall between 235 and 524, well above Indiana's ratio (see table below). MHEC states with ratios closest to that of Indiana's are Missouri (108), Illinois (152), and Ohio (170).

	Physician Assistants per 1 Million Population
Illinois	152
Indiana	98
Iowa	255
Kansas	286
Michigan	291
Minnesota	235
Missouri	108
Nebraska	416
North Dakota	381
Ohio	170
South Dakota	524
Wisconsin	275

In Indiana, licensure as a Physician Assistant requires graduating from an accredited college or university and successfully completing the national certifying examination (PANCE), which is administered by the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants. Nationwide, there are 148 accredited Physician Assistant programs, most of which are at the master's level, although there are some baccalaureate level and even a few remaining associate degree programs.

Also at its February meeting earlier this year, the Commission approved a B.S. in Health Sciences for the IUPUI campus. The Health Sciences program – which is housed in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, like the proposed PA program – is projected to graduate 50 students per year and is expected to be an important feeder program for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies.

The Physician Assistant Studies program will feature several collaborative efforts as part of its implementation. One such collaboration will be with the School of Nursing, which will share faculty for at least two courses and will undertake joint counseling of prospective students. Another collaborative effort will be with the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), which will help to place students for clinical experiences outside of the Indianapolis metropolitan area. The PA program will be housed initially off campus, but will re-locate on campus, along with other School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences programs, when a suitable facility is constructed on the present site of Wishard Hospital.

## **Supporting Documents**

- (1) *Abstract* – Master of Physician Assistant Studies To Be Offered by Indiana University through its IUPUI Campus, August 27, 2010.
- (2) *New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary* – Master of Physician Assistant Studies, August 27, 2010.

## Abstract

Master of Physician Assistant Studies  
To Be Offered by  
Indiana University through its IUPUI Campus

August 27, 2010

**Objectives:** To deliver a comprehensive primary care education and training program that combines didactic course work with clinical experiences to prepare graduates who are equipped to provide preventative and therapeutic health care that is safe, current, and evidence-based. The program will have necessary research and critical thinking skills to serve as academic and professional leaders in the physician assistant profession.

**Clientele to be Served:** Potential candidates will consist of individuals who have strong basic science background and direct patient experience and seek to work under the supervision of a licensed doctor of allopathic or osteopathic medicine.

**Curriculum:** A total of 106 semester credit hours are required to complete the program, distributed as follows:

### Physician Assistant Curriculum

- Introduction to Physician Assistant profession (2)
- Gross Anatomy/Lab (5)
- Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostic Medicine (3)
- Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants I – Internal Medicine (8)
- Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants II – Pediatric, Gynecology, Obstetrics, Geriatric, Dermatology (6)
- Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants III – Surgery, Emergency Medicine (6)
- Medical Genetics and Embryology (3)
- Patient Evaluation I & II (6)
- Behavioral Medicine (2)
- Pharmacology for Physician Assistant I, II, & III (6)
- Legal and Ethical Issues in Physician Assistant (2)
- Concepts of Leadership and Management for Physician Assistants (1)
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (3)
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (3)
- Clinical Physiology and Pathophysiology I & II (8)
- Trends and Issues in the Health Sciences (3)
- Evidence-Based Critical Inquiry (3)
- Seminar in Physician Assistant Clinical Practice I & II (2)
- Capstone Research Project (2)

- Clinical Rotations:
  - Public Health (2)
  - Family Practice (4)
  - Internal Medicine (4)
  - Women's Health (4)
  - Pediatric (4)
  - Surgery (4)
  - Psychiatric (4)
  - Emergency Medicine (4)
  - Elective (2)

***Employment Possibilities:*** Graduates can expect to gain employment in both primary and specialty care at a variety of practice settings including hospitals, managed care organizations, community clinics, private practice, medical groups, Veterans Medical Centers, and other government agencies. Graduates may also pursue careers in research, public health, health care administration, and teaching in postsecondary institutions.

**NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

August 27, 2010

**I. Prepared by Institution**

Institution/Location: Indiana University through its IUPUI Campus

Program: Master of Physician Assistant Studies

	Year 1 FY2011	Year 2 FY2012	Year 3 FY2013	Year 4 FY2014	Year 5 FY2015
Enrollment Projections (Headcount)					
Full-Time	35	75	90	100	100
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	35	75	90	100	100
Enrollment Projections (FTE)					
Full-Time	85	167	201	221	221
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	85	167	201	221	221
Degree Completions Projection	0	0	35	40	50
New State Funds Requested (Actual) *	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
New State Funds Requested (Increases) *	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**II. Prepared by CHE**

New State Funds To Be Considered For Recommendation (Actual) *	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
New State Funds To Be Considered For Recommendation (Increases) *	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CHE Code: 10-30

Campus Code: 1813

County: Marion

Degree Level: 07

CIP Code: Federal – 510912; State – 510912

\* Excludes new state dollars that may be provided through enrollment change funding.