

# COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, December 13, 2012

## DECISION ITEM A:

### Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene To Be Offered by Indiana University Northwest at Gary

#### Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Dental Hygiene to be offered by Indiana University Northwest at Gary, in accordance with the background discussion in this agenda item and the *Program Description*.

#### Background

The Academic Affairs and Quality Committee has discussed this program on two separate occasions (September 27 and November 8 of this year) and the Committee remains divided regarding the need for this program. A principal concern raised during Committee discussions centered around whether there is a compelling rationale a for dental hygiene program at the baccalaureate level, given that nationwide, most dental hygiene programs are at the associate degree level (268 associate degree programs versus 40 baccalaureate programs, according to an April 2012 ADA survey). More pointedly, does the rationale for this program rest more with the desire of the profession to increase the entry-level educational preparation for dental hygienists or with changes in the workplace or dental care delivery system that call for higher preparation? A corollary concern is whether increasing the entry-level educational requirement will lead to increased costs to consumers.

**Similar Programs in Indiana.** According to the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) web site, there are no dental hygiene programs in the independent or private not-for-profit sector. Likewise, the Board for Proprietary Education (BPE) data base indicates there are no dental hygiene programs in the proprietary or private for-profit sector, although BPE data does indicate there are seven certificate/diploma and two associate degree programs in dental assisting.

Within the public sector, six associate degree dental hygiene programs graduated a total of 146 students in FY2011:

<u>Campus</u>	FY 2011 A.S. <u>Graduates</u>
IU Northwest**	20
IPFW	30
IUPUI	49
IU South Bend*	13
ITCC Region 2 (South Bend)	13

ITCC Region 5 (Kokomo/Anderson)	15
Total	146

\*Eliminated (no longer admitting students)  
 \*\*To be eliminated

However, the IU South Bend associate degree program has been eliminated, i.e. it no longer admits students, and the IU Northwest program would be eliminated if proposed B.S. in Dental Hygiene is approved by the Commission.

Also in the public sector, three baccalaureate degree programs graduated a total of 56 students in FY2011.

<u>Campus</u>	<u>FY 2011 B.S. Graduates</u>
IU South Bend	26
IUPUI	6
USI	24
Total	56

While the IU South Bend programs are entitled B.S. in Dental Hygiene, the IUPUI program has a more distinctive focus, which is reflected in its title: B.S. in Public Health Dental Hygiene.

**Related Programs at IU Northwest.** In addition to its A.S. in Dental Hygiene, IU Northwest has seven other programs related to health care:

<u>Program, Level</u>	<u>FY 2011 Graduates</u>
Dental Assisting (1 Yr Certif.)	19
Health Information Technology (AS)	13
Radiography (A.S.)	39
Radiologic Science (B.S.)	34
Health Services Administration (B.S.)	11
Nursing (B.S.)	76
Clinical Counseling (M.S.)*	0

\*program approved in August 2010  
 IU Northwest also hosts a Center for Medical Education as part of the IU School of Medicine statewide M.D. degree.

**IWIS Analysis.** Although the data are limited with respect to the relatively small number of programs and graduates, an effort was made to examine the differential between salaries for

Indiana associate and baccalaureate degree graduates of dental hygiene programs, using the Indiana Workforce Intelligence System (IWIS). More specifically, graduates of three baccalaureate degree programs (IU South Bend, IUPUI, and USI) were tracked over a number of years and their salaries were compared to those of associate degree graduates. The results showed that for the year 2009-10, the difference between the annualized, median salary for baccalaureate graduates of the IUSB and USI programs (\$38,130) and that for the associate degree graduates (\$34,963) was small -- \$3,167 or nine percent. However, the IUPUI graduates of the Dental Hygiene Public Health program had a significantly higher median salary (\$62,863) than associate degree graduates -- \$27,900 or 80 percent.

IU Northwest argues that trends in the delivery of dental services will increasingly offer more opportunities for dental hygienists who have baccalaureate degrees, which in turn will allow them to offer their services in more settings than dental offices, thus resulting in better access to services and, ultimately, improved dental health for the population, especially the underserved. Unresolved are questions about how pronounced this trend will be and how it may impact the future salaries of dental hygienists and the cost of delivering dental services.

**Concluding Points.** IU Northwest also argues that the licensure and accreditation requirements of an associate degree cause it to resemble a three-year degree, so there is relatively little additional effort for students to earn the baccalaureate degree. It should also be noted that given the investment required for offering a program in dental hygiene and the substantial pressure on Ivy Tech to offer programs in a number of high demand areas, dental hygiene programs appear to be a lesser priority for the College, as is indicated by the fact that Ivy Tech Region One (Gary, etc.) has no plans to offer an associate degree in dental hygiene.

Finally, while approving the baccalaureate degree is consistent with the long-standing direction of the Commission's to shift associate degrees out of the university sector, it is unclear how this program fits into the Commission's challenge to the IU and Purdue University regional campuses to provide greater access to programs through collaboration and common curricula.

## **Supporting Documents**

*Program Description – Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene To Be Offered by Indiana University Northwest at Gary*

**NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

November 30, 2012

Institution/Location: Indiana University Northwest to be offered at Gary

Program: B.S. in Dental Hygiene

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016

**Enrollment Projections (Headcount)**

Full-Time	72	72	72	96	96
Part-Time	0	10	20	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>

**Enrollment Projections (FTE)**

Full-Time	77	77	77	100	101
Part-Time	0	5	10	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>111</b>

**Degree Completions Projection**

	0	0	10	34	34
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CHE Code: 12-01

Campus Code: 1815

County: Lake

Degree Level: Bachelors

CIP Code: Federal - 510602; State - 510602