

DATE: July 24, 2008

SUBJECT: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Ph.D. in Exercise and Sports Science

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Ph.D. program in Exercise and Sport Science is proposed with two concentrations: (1) Exercise Science is dedicated to the study of the effects of exercise on the human body by integrating scientific research and education on the health benefits of exercise; (2) Sport Studies is dedicated to the specializations of motor behavior, sport psychology, and sport sociology and how these factors shape competitive sport and other movement activities in individual and group activities.

The curriculum currently exists as a concentration under the Ph.D. in Education and has a long history of productivity. The program is proposed as an independent major to better recruit students and faculty by naming and marketing the program more accurately. The external consultant found the proposed change to be academically sound, revenue and cost neutral, and providing for a higher level of program functionality and organizational effectiveness.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2008

Commission staff reviewed this program proposal according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on January 29, 1997. Each relevant standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The mission of the proposed program is consistent with the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies which commits to excellence in research, teaching, practice and service within the contexts of exercise science and sports study.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The program requires completion of 123 semester hours, with 69 of these hours in the concentration. No new courses have been constructed. The curriculum is generally a three-year program. Following completion of course work, students take a comprehensive examination. Upon successful completion of the exam, students proceed in dissertation development. Graduates will be prepared for careers in teaching and research at the university level, research in non-university settings, and positions in applied sport and exercise organizations.

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Program admission requires a Master’s Degree with at least a 3.0, a minimum GRE score of 1000, and a departmental application evaluation. International students must post a minimum TOFEL score. To remain in good standing, students must maintain a 3.0. A satisfactory comprehensive examination and dissertation defense are required for graduation.

Projected Program Productivity: The program as a concentration currently enrolls 23 students.

Year	Fall Full-time Headcount	Fall FTE	Graduates
1	23	23	3
2	25	25	7
3	25	25	10
4	25	25	9
5	25	25	9

1.1.20D FACULTY: Sixteen (16) FTE faculty are currently approved to direct doctoral dissertations or serve as a doctoral committee member. The consultant found existing faculty FTE sufficient to support the proposed independent program. The consultant also found diversity appropriately represented in the departmental faculty.

1.1.20E LIBRARY REOURCES: Library resources are adequate.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be sponsored by the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies and housed within the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. A Graduate Director from the department will be appointed to oversee admission and retention and coordinate the curriculum for the program.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The program is enriched by the Biomechanics/Sport Medicine Laboratory, the Applied Physiology Laboratory, and the Center for Physical Activity and Health.

1.1.20H STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: Demand for the Exercise Science Program is calculated on changing demographics with an aging population with greater needs for lifestyle and diet education and continued growth in the fitness industry. National and international competitive sport programs at all levels continue to grow, influencing the need for professionals who identify and understand the factors that mediate motor performance, the learning of motor skills, and the control of goal-directed actions. Doctorally-prepared individuals are needed as faculty in colleges and universities and as administrators and researchers for sport and exercise industries.

1.1.20I COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: N/A

1.1.2J EVALUATION: The program will be reviewed through the THEC Performance Funding program and the University Academic Review Process. All UT academic programs are reviewed on a ten-year cycle through the University's Academic Review Process. A follow-up, mid-cycle review involving the same team of three internal and three external peer reviewers will occur four years after each full review.

1.1.2K EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES: Existing equipment and facilities can support the program as proposed.

1.1.2L DUPLICATION: Doctoral and master's programs in human performance and exercise science are offered at Middle Tennessee State University; however, if approved, the UTK Ph.D. will be unique in combining Sports Studies with the exercise science curriculum.

1.1.20M EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: Dr. Tom Burnham, Dean, School of Education, The University of Mississippi, conducted a site visit and proposal evaluation. Dr. Burnham's review affirmed the UTK case for establishing a free-standing Ph.D. in Exercise and Sports Science.

1.1.20N COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: The University has prepared a budget analysis documenting expenditures for program personnel and operating and anticipated revenues from tuition, fees, and external resources. Converting the concentration to an independent degree program will not create new recurring costs and revenue is expected to be sufficient for continued program operation. The only one-time expenditure associated with the proposed action is the nominal cost for consultant evaluation of the proposal and site visit.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance, and others set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. The Commission may choose to extend the period, if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.