

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Executive Summary and Proposed Next Steps for New Degrees
July 10, 2015
Submitted to Provost Stripling

Background

For the last 18 months, Texas A&M University-Texarkana has been developing an academic master plan that includes the proposal of four new degrees in AY 2016-17 and four more in 2017-18. Throughout the process, the Deans Council has worked closely with all necessary constituents including faculty, University Advancement, community leaders, enrollment services personnel, and university administrators. What follows is a summary of the process and recommendations for action.

The Deans Council began by engaging a diverse committee of campus stakeholders on a comprehensive needs assessment. This group identified a number of potential new degrees and certifications based on the responses from summary results and from needs analysis regarding job demand and student interest. From there, the college deans worked with the faculty to identify new degrees and concentrations. The next step was to develop a master list of the new degrees which was vetted with key stakeholders (especially the New Degrees Think Tank). An overall consensus emerged for the first two years (2016-17 and 2017-18).

Each new degree program proposal must contain current data on the following criteria: *need* (job market, student demand, enrollment projections); *quality* (degree requirements, specific requirements for the number of both CORE and SUPPORT faculty, recruitment plans, library support and resources, facilities and equipment, accreditation and program evaluation); *costs and funding* (a table that reflects the associated new costs over a five year period). The range for a new degree program proposal is from 20-50 pages (depending on the type of degree). Successful proposals must receive *internal* approval by the Provost and President; *external* approval, at minimum must be obtained by TAMU Staff/Board of Regents and SACSCOC. None of the proposed programs identified in the first two years of this process will require approval from THECB.

Of important note is that if approved, the following new degrees will represent a 25% increase in our current portfolio of degrees (NOTE: multiple concentrations were not counted for degrees – e.g., BBA counted as one even though there are multiple concentration areas). At the graduate level, our degrees will go from 12 to 15 which is a 25% increase. At the undergraduate level, we will go from 16 to 20 which is also a 25% increase.

Proposed New Degrees to begin Fall 2016

MA Communication. This proposal has been written and is being updated. It is recommended that the final draft will be submitted to the Provost's Office by 8/3/15. This will allow 10 days to submit it to the TAMUS and SACSCOC. If/when this timeline is met, the following approvals may occur: Board of Regents (11/12/15), SACSCOC approval (2/1/16). Recruitment for FALL 2016 classes may begin as early as 12/1/15. Dr. Kevin Ells will lead the group identified to finalize the proposal.

BS Kinesiology. This new degree proposal needs to start immediately. Therefore, the proposal will be due to the Provost's office no later than October 19, 2015. This will allow us to submit the proposal to the TAMUS office and SACSCOC by the end of October 2015. Approvals will hopefully occur: Board of Regents (2/12/16) and SACSCOC (5/1/16). Recruiting might begin as early as 3/1/16. Dean Peterson will secure an external lead to help develop the proposal.

BS Chemistry. The Chemistry degree will require only one new faculty member (Assoc. or Full Professor) as the Program Head. Dr. Md Kalam will head the team developing the full proposal which will follow the same proposal timeline as the BS Kinesiology.

BS Biotechnology. Building on the tremendous growth of the biology program, this new degree will further strengthen the STEM College. Mr. Brandon Quaid, the current Biology Lab Coordinator with an MS in Biotechnology, will assist the team in developing the full proposal. An external consultant may lead the proposal writing process which will follow the same timeline as the BS Kinesiology.

Proposed New Degrees and Concentration to Begin Fall 2017

BS Nursing. Having received “Exceptional Item Funding” for this new degree, it is vital that we get started on this new degree. Because it will fall under an existing CIP code degree (our RN to BSN program), there is no need to submit a proposal to the system. What will be necessary is the hiring of faculty, purchasing of clinical instruction equipment, and securing of clinical training space.

Master of Public Health (MPH). Ideally situated to connect TAMUT more fully with local hospitals, this new degree will require a consultant to help develop the proposal.

MS Applied Statistics. Placing this new degree fully online will allow us to meet the exceptionally high need nationally for this degree.

BBA Business Administration–Concentration in Supply Chain Management. This concentration was identified through the needs assessment as a substantial opportunity for growth. One new faculty line will be needed.

Budget Summary

Table 1: Budget Impact of Proposed New Degrees

<u>Degrees</u>	<u>FY16</u>		<u>FY17</u>		<u>FY18</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>One-Time</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>One-Time</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>One-Time</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	
<u>MA Communications</u>	\$2,000	0	0	0	0	\$55,000	\$57,000
<u>BS Chemistry</u>	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$90,000	\$210,000	0	\$209,000	\$629,000
<u>BS Biotechnology</u>	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$299,000	0	\$299,000	\$708,000
<u>BS Kinesiology</u>	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$220,000	0	\$299,000	\$689,000
<u>BS Nursing</u>	0	0	\$500,000	\$90,000	0	\$90,000	\$680,000
<u>M Public Health</u>	0	0	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$325,000	\$485,000
<u>MS Applied Statistics</u>	0	0	\$25,000	\$60,000	\$25,000	\$225,000	\$335,000
<u>BBA Supply Chain Management</u>	0	0	0	\$110,000	0	\$110,000	\$220,000
<u>Total</u>	\$342,000		\$1,774,000		\$1,687,000		\$3,803,000

Recommendations

1. The Council of Dean’s recommends that we move forward with approval of degrees for both years and associated funding for FY16
2. We further recommend that we cease discussion about proposed degrees for 2018-on until spring 2016, after proposals for all degrees slated for 2016-17 are complete.