

December 2005

Status Report on Previously Approved Degrees

HECB Information Item

This is an informational report to the members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board at its December 15 meeting. No board action is necessary at this time.

Background

The Higher Education Coordinating Board's *Program and Facility Approval Policies and Procedures* authorize the executive director to approve proposals by public four-year institutions to extend existing degree programs to off-campus locations, via distance learning or a combination of delivery methods.

The process requires an institution to notify the HECB at least 45 days prior to the proposed start date of the program. This "Notification of Intent" (NOI) must include the following information:

- Institution Name
- Degree title
- CIP number (Classification of Instructional Programs)
- Delivery mechanism(s)
- Location
- Proposed program start date
- Statement of need for the program
- Source(s) of funding
- Enrollment targets

HECB staff post the information on the HECB Web site within five business days after receiving the proposal and notify the provosts of the other public four-year institutions, the Independent Colleges of Washington, the Council of Presidents, and the four-year universities' Committee on Academic Program Planning. Interested parties have 30 days to review and comment, and if there are no objections, the HECB executive director will approve the proposal.

Status Report

From September 2005 through November 2005, the HECB executive director approved the expansion of two degree programs. Eastern Washington University received approval to offer a Masters in Social Work to students at WSU Vancouver, effective October 31, 2005. Central Washington University received approval to expand its Bachelor of Science in Flight Technology-Aviation Management Specialization to students at their Moses Lake teaching site, effective November 15, 2005. Both programs are described below.

Masters in Social Work at WSU Vancouver - Effective October 31, 2005

Eastern Washington University received approval to offer a Masters in Social Work to a second cohort of students at Washington State University Vancouver (the first group of students was admitted in 2003). The social work program at EWU is accredited by the national Council on Social Work Education. The council last reviewed the program in 2001.

Beginning in summer 2006, the program will accommodate a cohort of 60 students (48 FTE), who will complete their studies in spring 2009. Students enrolled in the program will have electronic access to the EWU library, as well as full access to the WSU library.

The EWU social work program provides education to underserved populations in rural, regional, and small urban communities. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the need for human service workers will grow by 136 percent by 2015. The 2005 State and Regional Needs Assessment conducted by the HECB also finds a need to increase the number of human services degrees.

In accordance with HECB policies and procedures, the program proposal was circulated among the public baccalaureate institutions for comment. No institutions raised concerns about the proposed expansion of the program.

Bachelor of Science in Flight Technology – Aviation Management Specialization at Moses Lake – Effective November 15, 2005

Central Washington University received approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Flight Technology – Aviation Management Specialization at their Moses Lake teaching site. The baccalaureate flight technology program will articulate with the associate degree program in flight technology offered by Big Bend Community College. Offering the program at Moses Lake allows CWU to expand its program (which is capped at 150 at the Ellensburg Campus) and will provide opportunities for Big Bend Community College graduates to continue their studies.

Central Washington University is the only public four-year institution in the Northwest to offer a BS in Flight Technology. Beginning in fall 2006, the Moses Lake program will accommodate 10 FTE students in Year One; increasing to 20 FTE students at full enrollment in Year Two.

Growth in demand for commercial airline pilots in Washington is about average. However, the Federal Aviation Administration expects an increased demand for qualified pilots nationwide -- due in part to the agency's mandatory retirement age for pilots. In addition, broader career options for pilots outside of the commercial airlines may create even greater demand.

Student demand for flight technology coursework is high. Currently, more than 100 students annually earn an associate degree in the field at Big Bend Community College.

In accordance with HECB policies and procedures, the program proposal was circulated among the public baccalaureate institutions for comment. No institutions raised concerns about the proposed expansion of the flight technology program.