



TRANSMITTAL AND ABSTRACT OF SENATE REPORT

Date Presented to the Senate: April 21, 2008

Presenter: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee

Subject of Report: Proposal to establish a Post-Baccalaureate (Graduate) Certificate in Assessment and Evaluation

Senate Document Number: 07-08-31

**Voting: (a) on resolutions or recommendations one by one, or
(b) in a single vote
(c) to endorse entire report**

A. Statement of Issue:

The College of Education and the Department of Measurement, Statistics and Evaluation propose to establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Assessment and Evaluation. The program is intended to address the public need—progressively more substantial since the 2002 No Child Left Behind legislation—for individuals capable of developing, implementing and interpreting high-quality assessments and evaluations. Designed for current professionals who need focused but rigorous education in assessment and evaluation, the program seeks to address a specific workforce need by increasing assessment literacy in the organizations in which the certificate students are employed.

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate consists of five 3-credit courses in sequence: EDMS 410: Classroom Assessment; EDMS 645: Quantitative Research Methods I; EDMS 622: Theory and Practice of Standardized Testing; EDMS 626: Measurement Techniques for Research; and EDMS 647: Introduction to Program Evaluation. Program delivery will be through a combination of traditional and distance-learning methods.

The proposal was submitted to the Senate by the Office of Academic Affairs following favorable recommendation by the Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) on November 19, 2007; the Graduate Programs, Curricula & Courses Committee on December 13, the Graduate Council on March 5, 2008, and the Senate Programs, Curricula & Courses Committee on March 7. If the Senate approves the proposal, it would still require further approval by the President, the Board of Regents and the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

B. Recommendation:

The Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses recommends that the Senate approve the proposal to establish the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Assessment and Evaluation.

C. Committee Work:

The Committee considered the proposal for at its meeting on March 7, 2008. David Cooper, Associate Dean of the College of Education and C. Mitchell Dayton, Chair of the Department of Measurement, Statistics and Evaluation, were present to answer questions. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the new certificate.

D. Alternatives:

The Senate could decline to approve the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Assessment and Evaluation.

E. Risks:

If the Senate does not approve the proposal, the University would lose the opportunity to address this workforce need. There are no comparable programs in the State or region.

F. Financial Implications:

There are no obvious financial risks. General market demand and current interest expressed by local school systems and agencies suggests that there will be significant interest in the program.