

AACR 3

Office of the President
June 9, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science in Clinical Research Design degree with a major in Clinical Research Design (CIP Code 51.1401, PROG = GS MSCRD CRDE), effective in the fall 2009 semester.

Background: The proposed M.S. in Clinical Research Design is designed to prepare practicing health care professionals and students pursuing a terminal degree to conduct population-based research and clinical trials.

The critical need for health care professionals qualified to conduct population-based research or clinical trials is evidenced by the fact that institutional eligibility for a Clinical Translational Sciences Award (CTSA), which are currently being granted by the National Center for Research Resources, requires the existence of a graduate school accredited to award higher degrees in clinical research. In order for UK's application for this award to be competitive, translational research must be defined as a discipline.

MDs interested in an academic appointment will find that this degree program will make them competitive for the best positions, where research skills are becoming the norm. Others, such as doctoral candidates in the basic sciences, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, and psychology, will also find this program attractive for similar reasons. Researchers in the basic sciences and pharmaceutical sciences are under increasing pressure to conduct translational research, while researchers in dentistry, nursing, and psychology are being encouraged to take an active role in community-based research.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and University Senate, and it has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____