

ASACR 8

Office of the President
April 30, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Interdisciplinary Disability Studies, in the Department of Early Childhood Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling, within the College of Education, beginning in the Fall 2019 Semester.

Background: The proposed program's curriculum takes a holistic view of individuals with disabilities in the context of their environment, focusing on empowerment of people with disabilities to live full lives as independently as possible. Students in the major will learn that empowerment comes through knowledge and understanding of various disabilities and unique needs of individuals across the lifespan and within various contexts (culture, community, sociopolitical environment, families, etc.). The curriculum provides perspectives from various disciplines including Social Work, Gerontology, Sociology, Counseling Psychology, Anthropology, Special Education, Rehabilitation Counseling, and Early Childhood, in order to allow a fuller understanding of the individual as a whole. Students will gain evidenced-based knowledge and skills and then apply them at agencies during practical work. This program is designed for students who want to become employed in a variety of jobs serving individuals with disabilities and/or want to go on to graduate study in programs such as Rehabilitation Counseling. Initial enrollment of around 10 students growing toward 70 students is anticipated.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____