



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

September 28, 2004

TO: Dr. Marshall A. Hill
Assistant Commissioner for Universities
and Health-Related Institutions, THECB

FROM: David E. Payne
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Low Producing Degrees

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the THECB’s most recent request for our institution’s intent on dealing with our low producing degree programs. The communication from the THECB was based on degrees awarded for the 2000, 2001, and 2002 academic years. Based on these three academic years, the THECB identified five baccalaureate programs and seven master’s programs as low producing degree programs. The programs are listed below along with the total number of degrees granted during the 2000, 2001, and 2002 academic years.

Table 1. Degrees Granted for Academic Years 2000 - 2002

| Baccalaureate Program | | Master’s Program | |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| • Medical Technology | 0 | • Music | 0 |
| • Multimedia Authoring & Communication | 2 | • Health | 1 |
| • Philosophy | 2 | • Supervision | 3 |
| • F&CS-Food Science & Nutrtn | 7 | • Sociology | 3 |
| • Family & Consumer Sciences | 8 | • Dance | 4 |
| | | • Family & Consumer Sciences | 5 |
| | | • Statistics | 5 |

In our review of these programs, we looked at the productivity of the past three academic years (e.g. 2002, 2003, and 2004). With the exception of the baccalaureate degree program in Medical Technology (CIP 51100500), it is our intention to continuing offering these programs. With the exception of the baccalaureate program in Philosophy and the master’s program in Health, the programs our rationale for maintaining the program is either based on either an acceptable number of degrees granted in the last three years and/or a sufficiently large number of students in the pipeline to ensure removal of the program from the low producing degree list. A short statement of intent with rationale is provided for each program after Table 2. The following table provides the program and number of degrees granted in the past three academic years.

Table 2. Degrees Granted for Academic Years 2002 - 2004

| Baccalaureate Program | | Master's Program | |
|--|---|------------------------------|----|
| • Medical Technology | 0 | • Music | 1 |
| • Multimedia Authoring & Communication | 8 | • Health | 2 |
| • Philosophy | 3 | • Supervision | 10 |
| • F&CS-Food Science & Nutrtn | 6 | • Sociology | 6 |
| • Family & Consumer Sciences | 6 | • Dance | 4 |
| | | • Family & Consumer Sciences | 17 |
| | | • Statistics | 7 |

Medical Technology: The program will be phased out over the next five years to allow students in the program time to finish.

Multimedia Authoring & Communication: This program is relatively new and is just now starting to accumulate a critical mass of graduates. Six degrees were granted during the 2004 academic year and five more students have applied to graduate with this degree in the 2004 fall semester. After the 2004 semester, this program will no longer be classified as a low degree producing program.

Philosophy: While this program annually produces a small number of graduates, the combination of a large number of minors and a significant number of upper level philosophy courses being required in other degree programs allows SHSU to offer a viable philosophy program with few graduates. The average class size in philosophy remains high (approximately 31 students per class in upper division courses) indicating the viability of the program.

F&CS-Food Science & Nutrition: This program is another program that is growing. There were two graduates in the 2004 academic year with another eight students in line to graduate in the next two semesters, thus removing this program from the low producing list.

Family and Consumer Science: This growing program has seventeen students that we anticipate will graduate in the next two semesters.

Music: Two years ago, the various music programs were designated to be phased out and combined into one masters of music program. Based the composite numbers produced by the various tracts, we have had nine graduates since May 2003. We expect these numbers to continue.

Health: The Health program has been and continues to be a low degree producing program. To alleviate this lack of productivity, a new department chair has been named with a charge of increasing degree productivity. Toward that end, the program is seeking permission to offer the degree at the University Center at The Woodlands. The University Center has been a productive site for some of some of our previous low

producing programs. Initially, a twelve-hour track in public health is being developed in conjunction with the Masters of Public Administration degree. We expect that if we are successful in getting the degree approved at the University Center, degree productivity will increase so as to make it a viable program.

Supervision: In the three most recent academic years, ten graduates have been awarded a masters degree from this program. It is no longer a low degree-producing program.

Sociology: Similar to the Supervision program, the Sociology Department has produced six graduates over the past three years. Furthermore, the department's decision to offer the degree at the University Center should stimulate visibility, interest and productivity.

Dance: Over the past two years, the dance program has produced only four graduates. However, three students are slated to graduate in the next academic year with another seven set to graduate the following year. Furthermore, there are three part-time candidates in the program with an unknown graduation date.

Family and Consumer Sciences: This fast-growing graduate program had twelve graduates in the past academic year.

Statistics: Over the last three years seven students with an MS in statistics, removing the program from the low degree-producing list.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you need additional information.