

**New Program Proposal
Master of Social Work
Winthrop University**

Summary

Winthrop University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Master of Social Work degree in Social Work, to be implemented in Fall 2006.

The program was approved by the Winthrop Board of Trustees on November 12, 2004, and submitted to the Commission for review on November 17, 2004. The proposal was reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee for Academic Programs (ACAP) at its meeting on January 20, 2005.

The purpose of the program is to prepare students to enter a variety of positions in the social work field and to provide a source for an advanced degree for those already employed in social work. According to the 2004-2005 edition of the *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)*, the M.S.W. is required for advancement in most agencies and for clinical practice. Also according to the OOH, demand for social workers will increase faster than average through 2012. According to the proposal, the *America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS)* predicts that there will be a need for at least 670 new M.S.W.s in South Carolina each year until 2008. The *SC Employment Security Commission Labor Market Information* shows 486 annual openings for social workers. The proposal states that the combined output of existing Bachelor's and Master's-level programs is not adequate to meet the need of even the lowest of these projections.

The proposal states that the advanced concentration offered in the program, Individual and Community Empowerment Practice, is "relatively unique." According to the proposal, this concentration requires graduates of the program to be able to use their knowledge of casework, group work, community practice, and policy practice to empower clients to "take control of their own lives and the environments (communities, organizations, and social institutions) in which they live." The focus will be on working with clients within the community and working with the community to improve support systems. As described, the program will not focus on social work administration, one of the concentration areas of the USC-Columbia program.

USC-Columbia is the only institution in the state that currently offers the M.S.W. degree. The program at USC is considerably larger (approximately 350 students) than the

proposed program. The coursework in the two programs is similar in content due to the compliance of both programs to Council on Social Work Education standards.

The admissions criteria and curriculum indicate that there will be three paths to the proposed degree: a one-year program for those who hold the B.S.W. from an accredited institution, a two-year program for those who hold degrees other than the B.S.W. and who can attend full time, and a three-year program for those who are working in the field and need to work part-time toward the degree. The three-year program offers traditionally taught coursework offered at times that are more convenient for working practitioners. Classes will be offered Thursday, Friday, Saturday and then on Saturday and Sunday a month later. Only one other institution in the nation offers this schedule of classes for an M.S.W. program. There are no distance-education courses offered in the proposed program. The course work in the two and three-year programs is identical and requires 60 credit-hours of study. The one-year program concentrates on advanced studies and requires 39 credit-hours of study. The coursework in all three paths conforms to Council on Social Work Education standards.

The program will require seven new faculty members: six who hold either an M.S.W. and earned doctorate or M.S.W. and two-year's experience, and one who holds the M.S.W. and has at least five year's social work experience in the area. Given existing faculty and planned retirements, the total after the fifth year will be 12 headcount faculty (6 FTE). Four of these will be hired in the first year (1.33 FTE), three (2.17 FTE) in the second, and one (.5 FTE) in the third. In addition, one staff person (.5 FTE) will be hired in the first year.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 45 headcount (45 FTE) in Fall 2006 and increase to 90 headcount (83.75 FTE) in Fall 2010. This is based on surveys of graduates of the B.S.W. program, applications to existing programs, and surveys of social workers in regional agencies.

Winthrop intends to gain full accreditation for the program from the Council on Social Work Accreditation in the spring of 2009. To that end, they will achieve pre-candidacy status in 2005, candidacy status in the spring of 2006, and admit their first class in Fall 2006. Initial accreditation can come only after the first class graduates in Spring 2008. Graduating students will be prepared for the intermediate level licensing exam administered by the Association of Social Work Boards, which is required for state licensure in South Carolina.

Current office space and classroom facilities under construction in the Bancroft Tower classroom building will be adequate for the purposes of this program. The program requires no special equipment. The proposal indicates that the library will spend \$46,000 in the first five years to support the proposed program through the purchase of subscriptions

to 25 social work-related professional journals and the purchase of data bases through Collegiate-Discus. These purchases are in addition to the library's current plan to acquire new material to support the B.S.W. program. The new journals and data bases, when combined with the existing and planned holdings for the B.S.W. program and the holdings for the complementary programs of Psychology and Counseling & Leadership, will fully support the proposed program.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$449,990 in year one and include program administration (\$50,400), faculty salaries (\$234,900), graduate assistants (\$22,600), clerical support (\$16,350), supplies and materials (\$7,200), library resources (\$6,000), communications (\$5,400), printing/copying (\$3,000), travel (\$6,000), fees/dues (\$8,140), and student support (\$90,000). Estimated costs increase to \$708,500 in the second year, with the primary increases being in faculty salaries (\$301,992) and student support (\$180,000). By the fifth year, the annual costs are \$708,500 and include program administration (\$56,726), faculty salaries (\$415,978), graduate assistants (\$25,436), clerical support (\$32,801), supplies and materials (\$7,800), library resources (\$10,000), communications (\$8,400), printing/copying (\$3,000), travel (\$9,600), fees/dues (\$3,759), and student support (\$135,000). The total estimated new cost is \$3,166,198 for the program's first five years.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

| Year | Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program | Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program | Total Costs | State Appropriation | Tuition | Total Revenue |
|--------|---|--|-------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Year 1 | \$687,716 | | \$687,716 | \$0 | \$367,345 | \$367,345 |
| Year 2 | \$1,410,700 | | \$1,410,700 | 179,162 | \$754,571 | \$933,734 |
| Year 3 | \$1,445,968 | | \$1,445,968 | 367,772 | \$773,274 | \$1,141,047 |
| Year 4 | \$1,401,883 | | \$1,401,883 | 377,037 | \$750,190 | \$1,127,227 |
| Year 5 | \$1,401,883 | | \$1,401,883 | 365,502 | \$750,190 | \$1,115,692 |

These data demonstrate that if Winthrop University can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the fifth year of its implementation. Winthrop states that normal tuition and fee increases over the first five years of the program will allow it to cover new costs.

In summary, Winthrop University is proposing a program leading to the Masters of Social Work degree in Social Work, to begin in the Fall of 2006. The program will prepare graduates to work in varied settings, in the field of Social Work, including state agencies. The program will have ~~three~~ tracks, one for students holding non-Social Work baccalaureate degrees and attending full-time (two years), one for students holding non-Social Work baccalaureate degrees and attending part-time (three years), and one for students holding Social Work baccalaureate degrees from an accredited program (one year)

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the program at Winthrop University leading to the Masters of Social Work degree with a major in Social Work, to be implemented in Fall 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.