

BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI Bachelor of Arts in Physics

RECOMMENDATION

This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. There were no concerns identified in the review, and approval is recommended.

Request: The University of Cincinnati (UC) requests approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Physics. UC already offers a Bachelor of Science in Physics, and masters and doctoral programs in the discipline. The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Physics will be administered by the Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences.

Purpose: The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Physics provides students an alternative to the BS in Physics, with greater flexibility for incorporating elective courses to complement the rigorous math and science preparation in the degree. Students may choose the Bachelor of Arts in Physics as preparation for further study in numerous areas (e.g., law, medicine, medical physics, physics,) or for direct employment in business, research and technology positions. Students may also choose to pursue secondary school teaching as a career with additional educator preparation coursework. UC has demonstrated the national and local need for students prepared in physics.

The proposed program will be accessible to transfer students and can be more readily combined with another undergraduate major. The B.S. in Physics requires that students begin the program as freshman, limiting options for students who demonstrate an interest in physics later in their undergraduate programs or with different career objectives than graduate study. The B.A. program will meet the needs of these students.

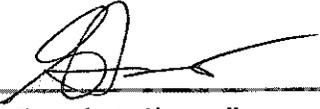
Curriculum: The total program of study requires 180 credits, including 54 core credits in physics and mathematics. Students complete a capstone experience in their senior year and have an opportunity to complete a co-operative program in addition to the degree coursework. Co-op students are placed in a full-time industry or research job for six months, providing both relevant work experience and additional income. The elective credits for the proposed program can be focused to provide preparation for many different career directions, including teacher education, pre-med, pre-law and pre-journalism. Students may also complete additional courses in physics and astrophysics.

Enrollments: University of Cincinnati anticipates an initial class size of 5-10 students for the proposed program, with an increase to 40 students in five years.

Resource/Faculty Needs: The proposed program has strong institutional support. Existing resources (faculty, labs, equipment) are sufficient to support the program during the initial years. As enrollments increase, additional full-time graduate teaching assistants will be added to support student labs.

End of Comment Period: February 25, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

3/4/10

Date

mc