

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

March 7, 2012

APC met on February 16 and reviewed a new proposal for a Certificate in Autism sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development. Drs. Robert Pennington and Monica Delano attended as representatives of CEHD. The purpose of the Certificate in Autism is to provide professionals with advanced knowledge in applied behavioral analysis, communications, behavior consultation and evidence based practices for individuals on the autism spectrum. The proposal notes that there is an urgent need for trained professionals and that there currently is no program in Kentucky which focuses on both applied behavior analysis and autism spectrum disorders. Overall, the Committee felt that this was an excellent program but requested the following clarifications be made to the proposal:

- 1) Describe in more detail how the program is unique and differs from other similar programs (e.g., its strong focus on applied behavioral analyses) such as the one at ECU, UNK, etc. Include a list of other Autism Certificate Programs locally, regionally and within our benchmark Institutions.
- 2) Describe in detail how the Program will be run and administered without new resources. This is an issue that arises now at all levels of review due to the budget cuts from the State. How will the additional Faculty responsibilities be integrated within their current workplans? How will this new Program impact on existing academic Programs in the School? Will there be an advising burden for the 54 new students?
- 3) Describe real or potential collaborations with the Autism Center and/or the program at ECU. If this program adds value to the Center and its activities, please elaborate.
- 4) Describe the anticipated applicant pool. Where do you anticipate your major draw will be? What is the anticipated size of the pool?
- 5) Discuss the option of marketing a complete online program and explain how the "hands on" component of the program will be evaluated for these distance Ed students.
- 6) Describe how the Certificate will lead to a stand alone occupation. This will satisfy the new requirements that must be met for students to be eligible to apply for Financial Aid.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Demuth

Chair, APC

