

ASACR 7

Office of the President
May 5, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in Health Services Research, within the College of Public Health, beginning in the Fall 2020 Semester.

Background: The National Academy of Medicine defines Health Services Research as “the multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care and the quality and cost of health care.” The proposed program will provide students with the theoretical and methodological foundations necessary to conduct creative and independent research with the goal of identifying evidence-based policy and management pathways to improve health care access, quality, and costs.

Creation of this program is in response to urgent need within the Commonwealth, region, and nation to address health services deficiencies in the accessibility, quality, and costs of health services. This would be the first program of its kind in Kentucky and one of 21 nationwide. Graduates can pursue careers in academic research centers, federal and state health agencies, nonprofit health and social policy organizations, hospital systems and health insurers, consulting firms, and health care foundations.

The proposed curriculum includes coursework in three core areas: Health Services Research Theory, Concepts, and Methods; Research Methods; and Directed Research in a Substantive Area, such as health economics. Enrollment of two to six students per year 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_____