9 March 2015

To: UNLV Campus Community

From: Carl L. Reiber
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Subject: Approved Degree: Doctor of Medical Physics (D.M.P.)

Please note that the Doctor of Medical Physics (D.M.P.) was approved at the March 2015 NSHE Board of Regents meeting.

Presently, there is a shortage of well-trained medical physicists which is likely to worsen over time as there is increasing demand for medical physicists in radiation oncology, diagnostic imaging and nuclear medicine. A D.M.P. program at UNLV will help to address the national shortage of residency programs. An accredited D.M.P. program fulfills the residency requirement as it provides two years of clinical training and thus will qualify our students to take all ABR certification exams. At present, there is only one accredited D.M.P. program in the nation. The D.M.P. curriculum will be almost identical to the current M.S. program in the first two years of study and will consist of didactic coursework and labs to provide students with the background knowledge required of a clinical medical physicist. The last two years of study will be spent in the clinic.

The need for medical physicists is especially acute in Nevada due to the aging population and the resultant increase in the number of cancer patients requiring radiation therapy during the management of their disease. Traditionally, it has been difficult to attract medical physicists to Nevada. The D.M.P. program addresses this issue by training local area students who are more likely to stay and work in Nevada following graduation.

Effective: Fall 2015

Please note for lists, databases, and generation of appropriate codes, etc.

For further information, please contact the Department of Health Physics and Diagnostic Sciences at (702) 895-4320.

CR: kf

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