9 March 2015

To: UNLV Campus Community

From: Carl L. Reiber
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Subject: Approved Degree: Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS)

Please note that the Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS) was approved at the March 2015 NSHE Board of Regents meeting.

This Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS) is an innovative approach to healthcare research and is in response to the growing demand from federal funding agencies to have an interdisciplinary research approach to complex healthcare problems. Because the demand for an interdisciplinary approach is emerging, it is important to develop team science, which refers to conceptual and methodological strategies of collaborative research inquiry, to keep pace with the ever changing global healthcare milieu. This Ph.D. program will address this emerging need and is not only innovative but propitious.

This team science concept will form the core of the coursework in this program. These core interdisciplinary courses will be the foundation of the Ph.D.; however, students will be able to select a track or sub-plan (i.e., Nursing, Rehabilitation Sciences, Health Physics, Kinesiology) which will also have a set of discipline-specific core classes. This will allow them to apply team science concepts while developing expertise in a specialized area of study. Eventually, it is the goal of this program to add sub-plans in Dental Sciences, Nutrition, Medicine, and Biostatistics.

This program is innovative in that it would be one of the first interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in Health Sciences in the Western U.S. Since there are so few programs, this represents a great opportunity for UNLV to be a leader in healthcare innovation. Additionally, this program is coming at an important time as growth in the health sector is expected to expand exponentially in the next decade and beyond. This growth will require a whole new cadre of health research educators who will help meet the needs of society by training the next generation of healthcare professionals.

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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