

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The Department of Social Work is proposing a credit bearing certificate in Mental Health and Well-Being. The 12-credit certificate is designed to provide students from any major with basic theoretical and practical knowledge related to mental health and well-being. The certificate would also be available to community members interested in expanding their knowledge in this area. There is a need throughout the state for individuals in all sectors to have knowledge of mental health and well-being, so this aligns with not only the university strategic plan but also state and regional needs. The courses in the certificate are available in both in-person and online formats, allowing flexibility to students or community members who choose to complete the certificate.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Coursework at 100-level vs upper division
2. Courses not found in CIM

Pros of Recommendation:

Students across a variety of disciplines could benefit from knowledge of mental health and well-being in human sciences, human service agencies, and beyond. The certificate would provide a basic level of knowledge and training to better serve communities across the state. The certificate also provides additional training opportunities for social work majors, who are the largest proportion of mental health providers in the U.S. The certificate also complements programming in Psychology. The online and in-person options make this well-suited to students and community members. Courses listed as “not found” are in process in the CIM system to transition pilot courses.

Cons of Recommendation:

The inclusion of two introductory courses may mean that some students can complete the certificate with only two upper division courses from the social work department. Students in psychology would not be able to “double dip” with those credits, and students in social work would be required to take 9 unique credits for their major. Students in other majors would be required to meet the 39 upper-division credit requirement, so although the certificate may meet graduation requirements, they will still complete sufficient upper-division coursework.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None. The department has sufficient staffing and resources are available to support the certificate.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee recommends approval of the credit bearing certificate in: Mental Health and Well-Being to be administered by the Department of Social Work.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 6 for to 0 against to 1 abstention on February 14, 2023 (Date)

Recommends that:

The Department of Social Work will offer a credit bearing certificate: Certificate in Mental Health and Well-Being (Code XXX-XXX) starting with the 2023/24 AY.

Implementation Date: 23/24 catalog

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office