




Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate
Seton Hall University

From: Katia Passerini, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: *BS in Interprofessional Health Sciences*
2022-FS-40

Date: March 1, 2022

We received 2022-FS-40, *BS in Interprofessional Health Sciences*, which communicates the Faculty Senate vote to approve a B.S. in Interprofessional Health Sciences with three tracks at its February 18, 2022 meeting.

Originating in the School of Health and Medical Sciences, but ultimately the product of collaboration of faculty and administrators across four colleges, this program aims to provide an additional pathway to careers in health that require a biology background but for which a biology degree may not always be sufficient. The proposed degree offers such students an alternative that serves their career goals in the context of our larger Catholic, liberal arts mission by balancing additional clinical and business content with abundant open electives. Healthcare is one-sixth of the economy of the United States, and the market for students with this degree appears robust.

This degree will serve students who do not necessarily wish to become doctors, nurses, therapists, or other healthcare practitioners, but who aspire to other fields that provide direct patient care and interaction or deal with health care in such a way that requires clinical and administrative coursework in addition to a biology background: for example, corporate wellness programming, health and fitness center management, and strength and conditioning coaching.

The Faculty Senate approved this proposal with three concentrations. The Exercise Science concentration aims to prepare students to apply for any of several American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) certifications or to be a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). A graduate with an undergraduate degree in biology and/or social and behavioral sciences would not be eligible for these certifications and would need to complete additional coursework to qualify. The Pharmaceutical Business concentration includes niche courses that will prepare students to work in pharmaceutical consulting or in the pharmaceutical industry, which is so prevalent in this region. And the Healthcare Administration and Management concentration will prepare students for health services administration jobs. The degree

requirements in the Stillman School of Business and College of Arts & Sciences do not presently enable students to combine biology and business curricula in these particular ways.

The BS IPHS program aligns with our strategic affordability agenda and our social mobility mission because it is a four-year degree that produces workforce-ready graduates who have achieved significant breadth and depth of knowledge because of the interdisciplinary curriculum and the ample opportunities to select electives across Colleges/Schools and could improve retention of those students who cannot complete other health programs. This major could also help feed our graduate admissions by preparing students to enter our Master of Science in Athletic Training, Master of Healthcare Administration, existing MBA programs, or similar.

This program was supported by the Dean of the School of Health and Medical Sciences, the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of Stillman School of Business, the Chairperson of the Department of Athletic Training, the Acting Chairperson of the Department of Interprofessional Health Sciences and Health Administration, and the Dean of University Libraries. It went through the appropriate processes including approval by both originating Departments, the SHMS Educational Policy Committee (EPC), the SHMS Faculty Assembly, and the Academic Policy Committee (APC). The program proposal included letters of attestation by several departments that will be needed to service the students pursuing this degree: Accounting, Economics, Management, Marketing, Philosophy, Biology, Math and Computer Science, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Psychology. We see and understand the concerns registered by some of these departments. For example, we understand that an error in the required Chemistry class needed will be corrected through a collaboration between the Chairperson of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the program proposers; and we understand faculty in SHMS and Stillman are attending to an accreditation matter pertaining to one track. We imagine other adjustments may need to be made as the course planning and enrollment unfolds, and we thank the Chairs in advance for this work.

According to research summarized in the program proposal, this program will attract both new students interested in health professions as well as existing, qualified Nursing and dual-degree track SHMS students who cannot continue in their first-choice major because of accreditation standards and program requirements. Accordingly, this year, the BS IPHS will welcome only first-year students and sophomores. The program proposers should share these standards and the program description should be entered into Banner by April 1, 2022. The financial model for the program anticipates there being 70 students entering the program next academic year (AY 2023), with the number of entering students rising to 133 in future years.

I approve this new Bachelor of Science. My approval of the BS IPHS is conditioned upon the program meeting various targets at the completion of year five (AY 2027), as determined by my office. In year five (AY 2027), the program must have at least 100 entering students (entering students refers to all students, both those new to the University and those already at the University, who declare the major or change to the major in that year). In addition, at the conclusion of year five (AY 2027), the program must have at least a 60% positive direct margin. If any of these benchmarks are not met, then the program will be automatically sunsetted. Also, in the event of any substantially large deviations from the financial plan, earlier actions during the first five years may be taken to evaluate possible interventions, up to and including suspending the program until enrollment is sustainable.

As we discussed at a meeting of the APC in the fall of 2021 and repeated in our addendum to the revised BS IPHS proposal, our goal remains to institutionalize a practice of Deans sharing, rigorously reviewing, and

constructively collaborating on new program ideas as they are conceived and discussed by their respective faculty. We encourage faculty to imagine new programs to consider and include partners across the University at the outset of their work, because we believe in cross-disciplinary learning and knowledge production and because we all need to contribute to making Seton Hall an even more collaborative, collegial University.

We thank the School of Health and Medical Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and Human Services, and the Stillman School of Business for their hard work and compromise. We applaud this sort of interdisciplinary thinking, collaboration, and prioritization of student learning and acting swiftly on actionable feedback. We appreciate in advance the efforts units across our one University will undertake to see that our students benefit from the unique resources at the Nutley Campus while working through the first two years of their coursework in South Orange. We again commit to providing the requisite resources as enrollments in the program demand and to supporting the necessary courses. And most of all we look forward to hearing about the success of these students.