

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Indiana University Request for a New Credit Certificate Program

### Summary of Proposal:

The Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law proposes a new Graduate Certificate in Civil and Human Rights. The proposal states that many current students have an interest in civil and human rights and this certificate would allow them to have a template to focus their studies in this area. The certificate would let future employers and colleagues know of their understanding and knowledge of challenges in this field.

#### 1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

The certificate is patterned after other certificates in the school and utilizes a similar structure. The goals of educating students in this focus areas appear achievable. There are core classes that all are required to take and a list of elective courses that the students can choose from based on their interests. A Certificate Capstone requirement is part of the program. A Certificate Advisor from the Civil and Human Rights Law faculty will be assigned to counsel each student through the program.

#### 2. Is the program academically sound?

At first glance, the 15 hours of credit required for the certificate seemed to be on the low side of the credit hours generally required for a certificate. Yet, a number of approved certificates in the McKinney Law School also require 15 hours of credit. This proposal seems to be in line with other certificates offered by the School. The program utilizes courses that are already approved to be taught at the IU McKinney School of Law (see below for a concern).

#### 3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

There is a concern about the courses that will be available for the students to enroll in for this certificate and which faculty will teach them. On page 3, the proposal states that all of the listed courses are already approved to be taught. On page 7 it states that "all but two of the courses proposed...are presently taught or approved to be taught at the Law School." These statements appear to conflict and need to be reconciled. The proposal states that the certificate will create no new teaching demand on the Faculty or University resources. It is not clear how approved courses that are not presently being taught will be taught by the faculty without creating any new teaching demand. Will the professors that teach these courses stop teaching other courses and harm existing programs?

Will new hires teach these approved courses? The use of faculty resources to teach the wide range of courses listed for this certificate needs to be clarified or outlined.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

It appears that there is no overlap and that this additional certificate would be beneficial to those pursuing joint degrees as well.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

I am concerned about how the approved but not currently taught courses will be taught without putting additional teaching demands on the existing faculty. Once this point is clarified, I would recommend that the proposal be approved.