

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

**Documents Reviewed: Proposal for a Ph.D. in Economics**

**Summary of Proposal:** The department of Economics within the School of Liberal Arts seeks to offer a Ph.D. in Economics with primary fields available in Health Economics and Philanthropic Studies.

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

The goals appear to be clear and achievable. The plan is relatively comprehensive and very well-connected to some of the unique strengths at IUPUI: health education and philanthropy.

The section on local and state-wide factors that support the proposed program is very good. This section provides a strong justification for the addition of this program, how it fits with state initiatives and needs, and the potential for working with a wide array of corporate partners.

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

The curriculum is rigorous and consistent with other Ph.D. programs. The plan of study is clear, the courses are relevant, and the requirements for completion of the degree are reasonable and appropriately rigorous.

I could not tell if undergraduate degree cumulative GPA is taken into consideration in evaluating candidates for admission. It is not mentioned under "admissions requirements".

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

A dozen new courses are proposed, in addition to the need for faculty to chair committees and direct dissertations. It seems clear that the proposal includes a plan to add two full-time faculty members within the next few years to handle the 20 students expected in the program by the end of that time. I have a concern that two new faculty members will not be enough to cover the Ph.D. program without undercutting the undergraduate program and the masters program.

**I don't doubt that the state will not provide funding for this program. Funding will have to come from the SLA and from IUPUI. This could be problematic over the next few years.**

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

**I do not see a threat to any other program. In fact, I believe the synergy between the health programs and the School of Philanthropy is a strength of this proposal. This proposed program fits with our mission at IUPUI, and could add significantly to research productivity at IUPUI in collaborative and interesting ways.**

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

**My only serious criticism of this proposal is the assessment section. There are few explicit measure of success described beyond placement of graduates and student publications and grants. I believe this proposal would be strengthened significantly by the development of specific learning goals and outcomes, and a plan to measure those outcomes as evidence of program effectiveness.**