

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

**Date Reviewed: 1/26/2010**

**Documents Reviewed:**

**Master\_PhysicianAssistantStudiesProposal01.20.10.docx**

**Summary of Proposal:**

This is a proposal for a physician assistant master degree, which would prepare the students for licensure as physician assistants. The degree would require substantial pre-requisite courses, 27 months of total course time, and a total of 106 credit hours. The program would require 28 new courses, as well as the hiring of new faculty and the procurement of new space. The proposed start date is summer of 2011.

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

The goals are clear, but more information is needed to see them as achievable. Specifically, no documentation is provided to show: 1) that the clinical rotations can be managed alongside existing programs; 2) that faculty can be hired to appropriately teach courses such as the Clinical Medicine series or the Pharmacology series, both of which will require substantial levels of expertise; 3) that existing courses can handle the load proposed in this program.

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

I think the overall plan of this degree looks sound, and as long as it compares favorably with other programs, academic soundness can be established relatively easily. There is apparently a feasibility study done by Dr. Dana Sayre-Stanhope of Emory, but this was not included in my copy. Some approval by the Dean of our School of Medicine would also be essential to have.

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

More documentation of this issue would be good. The total number of student-hours is huge, and a delineation of faculty effort toward this program would be useful. For example, for the existing faculty listed on page 19, which of their present responsibilities will decrease in order to take on these new courses? For the faculty to be hired, which course responsibilities lie with which faculty members? This information needs to be tabulated in a way that clearly shows that the teaching load is manageable with the number of faculty proposed. The

qualifications required for the different faculty to teach the new courses also needs to be stated (as mentioned above for Medicine and Pharmacology).

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

A specific problem that needs to be addressed is for Gross Anatomy, D850. I know that this course is presently using all the available space for laboratory teaching. Some documentation for how the PA students would be incorporated is essential before this proposal goes forward. Similar assurances should be obtained for all existing courses.

Similarly, details of how clinical rotations will be managed—along with assurance from the other clinical schools that this can be accomplished—need to be provided.

The proposal states that a letter from the Dean of the School of Medicine is in hand (though not included in my copy). It will be essential that this letter (or other supporting material from Medicine) makes it clear that the clinical rotations can be accommodated within the hospital systems available to the students.

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

I like the overall plan of this degree very much, and I think that it will be a valued program on campus, serving both the students and the State well.

However, I think more work needs to be done to document the details of the proposed program before it is approved by the campus. Some of this may already be done (such as in the letter from Dean Brater, which I do not have) but other items, such as the tabulation of faculty responsibilities for the new courses, will need to be developed.