

DATE: July 23, 2015

SUBJECT: East Tennessee State University, Pharmacy Studies, Bachelor of Science (BS)

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed Pharmacy Studies BS program at East Tennessee State University will facilitate the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy’s vision to become a recognized leader of pharmacy education in the Southeast. Students who enter the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy are required to have earned 61 credit hours but they are not required to have earned a baccalaureate degree. By providing this proposed Pharmacy Studies BS degree, students will have the opportunity to have their academic achievements recognized with this degree while simultaneously working towards the terminal Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.). The Pharm.D. is the professional degree required for entry into the practice of pharmacy. The majority of Pharm.D. programs accredited by the American Association of College of Pharmacy do not require a bachelor’s degree. Typically, academic entrance requirements can be met in the equivalent of two full-time academic years of study. Currently, students who enter pharmacy school without a degree are not recognized for academic achievement until six years (at minimum) after beginning college.

The proposed program will strengthen ETSU’s academic program offerings, especially in the health professions by offering the only Pharmacy Studies BS program in the State of Tennessee. This program also facilitates pharmacy students who are interested in earning joint degrees such as Master of Business Administration or Master of Public Health. These joint degree programs require a bachelor’s degree as a prerequisite for graduate school admission.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall 2015

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed Pharmacy Studies BS program supports ETSU mission of providing “strong, comprehensive educational, research, and service programs in the health sciences that advance the health and wellness of people throughout Tennessee and Southern Appalachia and of rural populations around the world.” The proposed program aligns with the 2010-15 Public Agenda for Higher Education and the Complete College of Tennessee Act of 2010 for increasing the number of students earning bachelor degrees while maximizing resources for students and the university.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: Students earning the Pharmacy Studies BS degree will attain broad knowledge in the liberal arts and basic sciences, as well as specialized education in the field of pharmacy. The program will require completion of 120 credit hours, including 41 hours in the general education core, 29-30 hours in the science core, 10-11 in guided electives, and 39 hours in the major field core.

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Only students who have been admitted into the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy (BGCOP) and who have not earned a bachelor’s degree are eligible for admission into the proposed Pharmacy Studies BS program. Admission into the BGCOP requires 61 hours of specified courses. The BGCOP academic prerequisites are aligned with the university’s requirements for awarding bachelor’s degrees.

Projected Program Enrollment and Productivity

On average, 38 students matriculate at the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy without a bachelor’s degree. This number, coupled with the student’s interest survey, served as the data sources for enrollment and graduation projections.

Only full-time students are eligible to enroll in the proposed program. It is projected that full-time students will enroll in 39 credit hours during the first academic year of the pharmacy curriculum. It is presumed that students entering the proposed program will lack only the major core – 39 credit hours, thus the number of graduates equals the number of students enrolled.

Year	Headcount	Graduates
2015	30	30
2016	30	30
2017	30	30
2018	30	30
2019	30	30

1.1.20D FACULTY: The instructional workload for the major core of the proposed program will be provided by the 14 full-time faculty in the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. There will be no additional faculty or staff needed for the proposed degree program.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: The existing library including electronic and database resources are sufficient to support the proposed Pharmacy Studies BS degree.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: No new organizational unit will be required. The advanced courses for the proposed program will be offered by Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The Office of Student Affairs provides general support for students and coordinates services that students may need. The Assistant Dean of Students will serve as the coordinator for students in the proposed Pharmacy Studies BS program that may require additional services.

1.1.20H FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: No additional facilities or equipment are needed. The existing building for the BGCOP provides ample physical space, including a teaching laboratory, for the instructional needs of the proposed program. The BGCOP has significant community-based clinical partners to meet the introductory experiential components of the curriculum.

1.1.20I NEED AND DEMAND: The proposed program is designed primarily to meet the academic need of pharmacy students who desire a bachelor's degree, but did not obtain such a degree prior to beginning pharmacy school. The program does not seek to produce graduates directly for the job market. However, individuals who complete the bachelor's degree prior to obtaining the Doctor of Pharmacy will have expanded opportunities pursuing joint-degree programs or post-graduate training. The 2011 Supply and Demand Study identifies pharmacy as a high-need field. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment projections for pharmacists are projected to increase by 14 percent from 2012 to 2022.

Establishing this proposed program facilitates BGCOP's vision: to become a recognized leader of pharmacy education in the Southeast. This is accomplished through a variety of mechanisms but primarily through the delivery of innovative and quality educational programs.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: There are no existing Pharmacy Studies BS programs offered at a public or private institution in Tennessee.

1.1.20K COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS: None at this time.

1.120L DIVERSITY AND ACCESS: East Tennessee State University aspires to be an institution that celebrates diversity by welcoming all students, faculty and staff as respected and valued participants in the University's educational mission.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The proposed Pharmacy Studies BS program will be evaluated through a combination of methods. The Doctor of Pharmacy is accredited by the American Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Although the ACPE does not accredit non-licensure programs, the overlapping curricular design of the proposed program will result in the program undergoing periodic review as part of the systematic accreditation process. The next ACPE accreditation site visit is scheduled for April 2016.

Additionally, the proposed program will also be evaluated utilizing the Institutional Effectiveness process led by the university's Office of Assessment as it relates to student learning outcomes.

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: As part of the program approval process, an expert in the field is invited to campus to serve as the external reviewer. As this proposed program generates no funds or expenses, THEC waived the external reviewer requirement.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT: The proposed Pharmacy Studies BS program will generate no new tuition and fees. The program will not require any new faculty, additional facilities, equipment or library resources. Students pursuing the proposed program will pay the normal tuition rate for the College of Pharmacy and will not be charged any additional undergraduate tuition and fees.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, and other metrics set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.