

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate
From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair
Date: September 8, 2017
Re: Approval of a proposal for a new Minor in Emergency Medical Services submitted by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences

At its meeting on September 7, 2017, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the action recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee unanimously approved a proposal for a new Minor in Emergency Medical Services submitted by the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the program will be offered beginning spring 2018.

Program Description and Rationale

The newly proposed minor in Emergency Medical Services was developed in response to demand for and interest in coursework in emergency medical services expressed by UVM undergraduates. The minor will be open to fully matriculated majors in the University and will augment rather than replace the community based programs for non-matriculated students taking EMT, Advanced EMT, and Wilderness First Responder courses. All courses in the curriculum exist and have been offered as part of the College of Nursing and Health Science's (CNHS's) Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services (IREMS) program, which is open to continuing education students and community members as well as matriculated UVM students. The curriculum is structured such that students enrolled in the minor will be able to focus on an area consisting of advanced practice, teaching, or research as best suits their interests and future goals.

Justification and Evidence for Demand

The Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates a "much faster than average" (24%) growth rate of jobs in the area of Emergency Medical Services personnel. Although completing a licensing exam is not part of the proposed minor's requirements, the coursework prepares students to take a range of licensing exams. Students that have completed the courses and chosen to sit for these exams have shown a very high pass rate (nearly 100%).

As noted above, this new minor was developed in response to high demand from matriculated students for course work in emergency medical services, including students who have completed individually

designed minors using coursework similar to the proposed minor curriculum. This demand is evident in the undergraduate enrollment observed in multiple sections of these courses offered in Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. The proposers note that students taking coursework in related fields such as ROTC, Athletic Training, and Nursing regularly inquire about a minor. A minor with the proposed portfolio of courses will formalize a common coursework set that meets the needs of students in a number of clinical programs, as well as students with majors outside of CNHS who have an interest in emergency medical services. As integration of emergency medical services education into higher education programs is unfolding on a state national level, the development of this minor allows UVM to respond in a timely fashion to an anticipated long-term trend in this area.

Relationship to and Impact on Existing Programs; Anticipated Enrollment

There are no overlapping minors or major concentrations within CNHS or other schools/colleges. The proposed new minor will augment the community based programs for non-matriculated students taking EMT, Advanced EMT, and Wilderness First Responder courses. It is anticipated by the proposers that ~10 students will enroll in the new minor in the first one to two years, with the number of minors expected to remain steady at 10-15 declared minors in total at any given time. In line with this, anticipated enrollments in required courses are predicted to be consistent with current numbers in the courses, as presumably some of the students choosing to declare the minor would be those who currently take multiple courses with in the proposed minor’s curriculum. In the long term, an anticipated increase in the percentage of seats in courses fulfilling the minor requirements occupied by full-time UVM students as compared to community members is anticipated, but not to the point that additional faculty would be required. No impact on current programs were noted in the proposal. If the demand for the proposed Minor in Emergency Medical Services exceeds expectations, the proposers state that they will cap enrollments to prevent the need for additional resources.

Curriculum

Completion of the newly proposed minor would require a minimum of 17 credit hours including two required courses and nine additional credits from a set of approved electives (see table below). The elective options allow students to focus on teaching, research, or advance practice as best suits their needs. Courses may not be taken pass/fail and at least half the courses taken to satisfy the EMS minor must be taken at UVM per University policy.

REQUIRED		
HLTH 003	Medical Terminology	2 credits
HLTH 153	Emergency Medical Technician	6 credits
ELECTIVES (9 additional credit hours)		
HLTH 051	Wilderness First Responder	3 credits
HLTH 197	EMS Teaching Assistant	3 credits
HLTH 257	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician	6 credits
AT 155	Emergency Medical Response in Athletic Training	3 credits
AT 195	AT to EMT Bridge Course	3 credits
SURG 200	Emergency Medical Research I	3 credits
SURG 201	Emergency Medical Research II	3 credits

Advising

The Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services (IREMS) faculty (who are full-time UVM faculty members) will be responsible for advising minors. This advising will be coordinated with the student's major advisor where necessary.

Admission Requirements and Process

The minor will be open to all fully matriculated UVM students. To be awarded the minor, students must complete the required 17 credit hours and maintain a 2.0 GPA or greater in the minor's coursework.

Assessment Plan

Initial assessment of the new minor will be based on course evaluations and student feedback panels already in place in CNHS. Additional feedback on student preparation can be gained through clinical field placement feedback, as well as passage rates on certification tests of students who choose to take them after completing required coursework. In general, assessment of this minor will be folded into ongoing assessment plans for the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences (the program housing the minor) as well as the college as a whole. The new minor will also be evaluated under UVM's Academic Program Review process.

Staffing Plan, Resource Requirements, and Budget

Given that the minor draws on existing courses and advising staff with no need for new sections anticipated, no additional staff or resources are necessary.

Evidence of Support

Letters written in support of the proposed Minor in Emergency Medical Services were provided by Patricia A. Prelock, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BRS-CL, Dean of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences; Kalev Freeman, MD PhD, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology in the Department of Surgery; Jeremy Sibold, EdD, Chair of Rehabilitative and Movement Science; P. Malone, Program Director/Director of EMS Minor and Elizabeth Adams, CNHS CPC Curriculum Chair.

Summary

Based on existing courses, the new Minor in Emergency Medical Services capitalizes on the strengths of the existing IREMS program to meet the needs of matriculated UVM students. Students enrolled in courses that would fulfill the new minor's requirements as well as other students across the University have explicitly expressed interest in such a minor. Given the anticipated increase in job opportunities for individuals trained in emergency medical services, the new minor provides students training in area that would increase employment opportunities for those that complete the program.