

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Comparative Effectiveness Research Graduate Certificate Program in the Department of Health Services and the Department of Pharmacy

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Steering Committee/Leadership Team of graduate faculty, in the Department of Health Services in the School of Public Health and the Department of Pharmacy in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Washington, to offer the Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Graduate Certificate Program, effective immediately. The graduate certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be conducted by the Graduate School in the 2016-2017 academic year.

BACKGROUND

On November 28, 2011, the Graduate School received a proposal from graduate faculty in the Department of Health Services and Department of Pharmacy to offer the Comparative Effectiveness Research Graduate Certificate Program. A Steering Committee/Leadership Team comprised of faculty from both departments will provide administrative program oversight.

CER is the conduct and synthesis of research comparing alternative interventions designed to diagnose, treat and monitor health conditions in real-world settings. The aim is to improve health outcomes by developing and disseminating evidence-based information to patients, clinicians, and other decision-makers about the most effective interventions for patients under specific circumstances. CER responds to priority areas identified by stakeholders with targeted and timely research intended to inform decision-making.

Projected initial enrollment in the program is five students. Students in the Department of Health Services and the Department of Pharmacy doctoral programs are the initial targeted population. Physicians or pharmacists who desire advanced training in CER to complement their professional degree will be given serious consideration for admission to the program. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of American Foundation awarded funding to the faculty to launch the graduate certificate program and for student support in the form of Pre-Doctoral Fellowships and Dissertation Fellowships for the first three years. Other students may be accepted into the program under other funding mechanisms available from their home departments.

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Student learning outcomes include building knowledge and methods skills, identifying and summarizing evidence gaps in clinical care in concert with stakeholders, designing and conducting high quality studies to address evidence gaps, and implementing findings of studies into clinical practice policy and care management, and to evaluate the implementation.

On December 1, 2011, the Graduate School Council considered the Comparative Effectiveness Graduate Certificate Program proposal and recommended that it be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the School of Public Health and the Dean of the School of Pharmacy, and the Provost have reviewed and approved this recommendation. Review and approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is not required. The HECB will be informed of the Board of Regents approval of the CER Graduate Certificate Program.