

Bachelor's in Applied Science with a Concentration in Health Services Administration

The Bachelor's in Applied Science (BAS) is an already existing degree program at UW. This proposal is to add a new concentration option in addition to the current one in Organizational Leadership. For over a decade, the University of Wyoming has had the BAS with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. That program has grown significantly and is now one of UW's largest online degree programs with more than 100 majors. Given that the program is only open to students who already have an associate's degree (since it is designed to stack on top of applied two-year degrees), and thus only has juniors and seniors in it, the student numbers are especially strong. The core idea behind the BAS degree is to help persons who already have an associate's degree build on that and advance further in their chosen field. In May of 2020, the UW Board of Trustees voted to move the administrative home of the BAS to UW-Casper.

The proposed concentration in Health Services Administration retains the majority of the current Bachelors of Applied Science, but adds in 14 credit hours (five courses) focused on Health Services Administration. The proposed concentration is designed for persons working in the healthcare field who want to pursue a bachelor's degree to advance their career potential, yet do not want to do so in a clinical area, such as nursing or medical laboratory sciences. The proposed concentration coursework is drawn from UW's existing Master's in Science in Health Service Administration program.

Given that the coursework and instructional capacity already exist at UW, the additional resources required are minimal. No new faculty positions will be needed to support the new concentration. The courses that faculty already teach for the MS in Health Services will be taught on their regular schedule. Faculty will receive an additional stipend, per course, since they will have more students and have to handle the logistics of a portion of the class being undergraduates and the rest being graduate students.

Gray Associates data shows strong student demand. For the 'online Laramie 360' analysis, their data shows student demand at a 19, which is a high score. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the 2019 median pay for healthcare administrators is approximately \$101,000 per year. The typical entry-level education is a bachelor's degree, in line with what is proposed here. Job growth over the next 10 years is forecast to be 32%, which the BLS characterizes as "much faster than average" across all fields.

With the current budget reduction at the University of Wyoming, the Academic Planning Committee is cautious in recommending a new program. However, this proposal seems to identify the type of program that can fill a need with existing demand at a minimum cost. No new faculty are required with current courses being modified to accommodate the new BAS concentration in Health Services Administration. The Academic Planning Committee voted to approve the Bachelor's in Applied Science with a Concentration in Health Services Administration. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal.