



School of Public Policy & Administration

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH & SERVICE
CENTER FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
CENTER FOR APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY & SURVEY RESEARCH

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To: University of Delaware Faculty Senate

From: Leland Ware, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration

Date: October 26, 2015

Reference: Permanent approval of the graduate program in Disaster Science and Management (MS and PhD)

I am writing to recommend approval by the faculty senate of the proposed permanent graduate degree (MS and PhD) in Disaster Science and Management and confirm the School of Public Policy and Administration's continued commitment to this program.

The program was launched in 2009 and the first intake of students was in 2010. This unique program has several tangible measures of success to demonstrate both the impact and productivity of the program. In just five years the program has graduated 9 PhDs and 18 MS students. Six of the 9 PhD graduates have been placed in academic institutions. A third of the MS graduates are pursuing or have pursued PhD degrees and a quarter are working in emergency management for government. The students have presented at conferences, published papers in archival journals and won awards. We are proud of what they have achieved. While not a large program and with only limited resources, the current enrollment of 27 students represents a sustainable, steady state.

The School of Public Policy and Administration serves as the academic home for this interdisciplinary program. Two of the core faculty, Professor James Kendra and Professor James Trainor, have primary appointments in SPPA and they teach the core courses, DISA 650 – Introduction to Disasters, International Comparative Analysis of Disasters and DISA 670 – Issues in Disaster Response. Several SPPA courses, particularly UAPP 684 -- Performance Management and Program Evaluation (formerly UAPP 698 - Management Decision Making for Public and Non-Profit Sectors) and UAPP 808 – Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation serves as options for meeting the requirements of the core curriculum. While this interdisciplinary program is housed in SPPA, students takes classes from a variety of programs and colleges to tailor the degree to their interests, skills and needs. Faculty from SPPA, Sociology (Aguirre, Watchendorf and Nigg), and Civil Engineering (Davidson, Lee and McNeil) serve as the primary academic, thesis and dissertation advisors.

The SPPA faculty discussed the proposed permanent program at a regular faculty meeting. The faculty e unanimously supported the approval of the Disaster Science and Management program (both MS and PhD degrees) for permanent approval. I fully support this proposed permanent program.