

**Project South Texas
Academic Program Working Groups
Final Report**

January 31, 2014

Working Group Name	Doctoral Programs
Working Group Members	Dr. Cynthia Brown, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies Dr. Mikhail Bouniaev, Dean, College of Science, Mathematics and Technology Dr. Walter Diaz, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Charles Lackey, Dean, Graduate Studies Dr. Javier Martinez, Dean, College of Liberal Arts Dr. John Ronnau, Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services Dr. John Trant, Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

Executive Summary

This report is submitted on behalf of the Doctoral Programs Working Group. The working group appreciates the importance of its tasks knowing that doctoral programs, to a great extent, set a tone and direction for a university. The Academic Working Groups provided a comprehensive and exciting list of potential doctoral programs. We look forward to engaging our colleagues in a discussion of which programs will be developed in order to best meet the strategic needs of the UTRGV.

Introduction

The charge to the working group was the following:

Identify trans-disciplinary doctoral programs for the new university that will leverage existing strengths as well as the new medical school to move the new university to the status of emerging research university and develop a framework to prioritize new doctoral programs proposed by the Academic Program Working Groups.

Synopsis of Recommendations

Attached is a table reporting the working group's recommendations. All 58 proposed programs are listed alphabetically (not in priority order) and categorized in terms of the Academic Working Group. Check marks indicate the assessment variables which, according to the Doctoral Program Working Group, pertain to that particular program.

The following programs were assessed as meeting a regional need, having potential to be a signature program, and presenting an immediate opportunity:

Project South Texas Academic Program Working Groups Final Report

- Border Studies
- Developmental Education
- Doctorate in Nursing Practice
- Doctorate in Pharmacy
- Environmental Sciences
- Biology

The following programs were assessed as meeting a regional need and having potential to be a signature program:

- Public Health
- Occupational Therapy
- Disaster Studies

The following programs were assessed as meeting a regional need and presenting an immediate opportunity:

- Manufacturing Engineering
- Mathematics

Working Group Meetings

Date	Location/Format
November 14, 2013	Face-to-face in Harlingen
February 19, 2014	Face-to-face in Harlingen

Current Academic Doctoral Programs

UTB	UTPA
EdD in Curriculum and Instruction	PhD in Business Administration
PhD in Physics (coop with UTSA)	EdD in Educational Leadership
	PhD in Rehabilitation Counseling
	PharmD (coop with UT Austin)
	PhD in Spanish (coop with U of Houston)

Current Academic Programs to be Offered Fall 2015

Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Doctoral Degrees
		EdD in Curriculum and Instruction

**Project South Texas
Academic Program Working Groups
Final Report**

		PhD in Physics (coop with UTA)
		PhD in Business Administration
		EdD in Educational Leadership
		PhD in Rehabilitation Counseling
		PharmD (coop with UT Austin)
		PhD in Spanish (coop with U of Houston)

Process and Procedure

A total of 58 programs were proposed by the Academic Working Groups and all of them were reviewed by the Doctoral Programs Working Group. The working group engaged in several email exchanges and met face-to-face. There was consensus that all 58 proposed UTRGV doctoral programs would be assessed based upon the following framework:

- Time span (1, 3, 5 or 10 years) within which the program should/could be implemented.
- Eight variables using a scale of 1- Weak; 2 – Moderate; 3 – Strong
 - a. Alignment: Aligns with the guiding principles of the new university as outlined by the Regents.
 - b. Signature Program: Potential to be a signature program for UTRGV
 - c. Inter-disciplinary: Promotes inter-disciplinary education/practice
 - d. Innovative: The program would be considered innovative or cutting-edge
 - e. External Funding: Potential to garner external funding from public and/or private sources
 - f. Pertinent to Regional Needs: Addresses one or more regional needs
 - g. Market: There are regional, national and/or international markets for this proposed program
 - h. Builds on Strengths: Connects with or builds upon the strengths and assets of existing UG or grad program(s) at UTB and UTPA

During the process of its review and analysis of the programs, the working group decided to weigh more heavily the following variables. Each of these key variables is briefly defined below.

- Regional needs
- Signature program
- Immediate opportunity
- Time-to-implementation

A) Regional need

These programs respond to a prominent social, economic, work force, health care or other need in the region.

B) Signature program

**Project South Texas
Academic Program Working Groups
Final Report**

These programs have the potential to stand-out; to put UTRGV on the map; to serve as a national or even international model

C) Immediate opportunity

Because of one or more characteristic (the program currently exists in some format, such as a cooperative program; it has a critical mass of faculty members on one or both campuses with pertinent expertise; a doctoral proposal is already under development) it is reasonable to believe the program could be fully-developed and implemented within 1-5 years.

Implementation in 6-10 years

An additional group of programs were assessed to clearly have merit but as not warranting the sense of urgency for implementation.

Addressing gaps in the list

The working group was, also, asked to identify gaps in the list of programs submitted by the Academic Programs Working Groups. Members of the working group believe these programs should, also, be considered for development by UTRGV.

**Project South Texas
Academic Program Working Groups
Final Report**

**Proposed Doctoral Programs - UTRGV Working Group Report
Submitted February 25, 2014**

Working Group	Proposed Programs	Regional Need	Signature Program	Immediate Opportunity 1-5 years	6-10 Years	Addresses Gap
Bio Medical Science	Bio Informatics				x	
	Bio Medical / Biology				x	
	Env Pharm/Toxi					
	Evol Med					
	Health Info Mgmt					
	Medical Genetics				x	
	Medicinal Chem					
	Public Health	x	x			

Business	Economics					
-----------------	-----------	--	--	--	--	--

Community & Public Service	Criminal Justice				x	
	Communication					
	Public Administration				x	
	Social Work					
	Translation Interpretation					x ₁

Creative & Performing Arts	Art Education					
	Art History					
	Art Therapy					
	Ethno Musicology				x	
	Latin American Art Hist					
	Music Education					
	Musicology					
	Museum Studies					

,Potential signature program & need for early implementation; in 1-5 years

**Project South Texas
Academic Program Working Groups
Final Report**

**Proposed Doctoral Programs - UTRGV Working Group Report
Submitted February 25, 2014**

Working Group	Proposed Programs	Regional Need	Signature Program	Immediate Opportunity 1-5 years	6-10 Years	Addresses Gap
Education	Curc & Inst Bilg (1)					
	Currc & Instr Ed Research					
	Ed Innov (2)					
	Ed Psy				x	
	Ed Psyc Learning Cog.					
	Hi Ed Poli Assmt & Eval					

Engineering & Comp Science	Civil Engr.					
	Computer / Elec Engr				x	
	Engr Technology Ed					x
	Manufacturing Engr	x		x		
	Software Engr					x

Health Professions	Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	x	x	x		
	Exercise Science					
	Occupational Therapy	x	x			
	Pharmacy	x	x	x		
	Physical Therapy	x	x		x	
	Public Health					
	Social Work					
	Veterinary Med					

**Project South Texas
Academic Program Working Groups
Final Report**

**Proposed Doctoral Programs - UTRGV Working Group Report
Submitted February 25, 2014**

Working Group	Proposed Programs	Regional Need	Signature Program	Immediate Opportunity 1-5 years	6-10 Years	Addresses Gap
Liberal Arts & Humanities	Language, Lit. & Sociocultural Studies					
	Literacy & Cultural Studies					
	Latino/a Studies					
	Spanish	x	x	x		x

Nursing	NP					
----------------	----	--	--	--	--	--

Science & Math	Biology	x	x	x		
	Chemistry	x				
	Computational Science & Modeling		x			
	Mathematics	x		x		
	Physics		x	x		
	Science Ed					x

Social Science	Clinical Psy		x	x		
	Criminal Justice					
	Mexican-American Studies					x ₁

Trans-disciplinary Studies	Border Studies	x	x	x		
	Developmental Education	x	x	x		
	Disaster Studies	x	x			
	Env Sciences	x	x	x		

₁Potential signature program & need for early implementation; in 1-5 years