Northern Illinois University Academic Program Prioritization Criteria Questions for Proposed Programs

Criterion 1: Importance of the Program to the University Mission [23%]

Question 1.1 Teaching and Learning: Describe how the proposed program will contribute to the promotion of excellence and engagement in 1) teaching and learning, 2) research, scholarship, creativity and artistry, and 3) outreach and service.

Question 1.2 Role in Program Portfolio: Explain how the proposed program will play an important role in the university's program portfolio.

Criterion 2: External Demand of the Program [16%]

Question 2.1 Career/Society Demand: Within the context of local, state, and national trends (e.g., employer demand for the program, characteristics of prospective and enrolled students, appropriate level of credentials, etc.), explain the need for the proposed program.

Question 2.2 Student Demand: Describe student demand for the proposed program (consider currently enrolled and potentially new students.)

Question 2.3 Unmet Demand: Describe the degree to which the demand for the proposed program is being met by peer institutions or competing institutions and elaborate on enrollment trends at such institutions.

Criterion 3: Internal Demand for the Program [21%]

Question 3.1 Trends for Majors: Discuss potential enrollment trends for the proposed program.

Criterion 4: Program’s Contribution to Diversity [8%]

Question 4.1 Student Diversity: Discuss and describe how recruitment and retention efforts by the proposed program will impact student diversity.

Question 4.2 Faculty Diversity: Discuss and describe how recruitment and retention efforts by the proposed program will impact faculty diversity.

Question 4.3 Diversity Actions: Describe how the proposed program will address the issues of inclusion and diversity through curriculum, research, and service.

Criterion 5: Financial Efficiency [16%]

Question 5.1 Peer Comparisons: Describe the proposed program’s resource needs as compared with peer institutions. Use national benchmarking data where available.

Question 5.2 Fundraising Revenue: Discuss opportunities that will be pursued by the proposed program to increase its development revenue.

Question 5.3 Costs and Revenues: Discuss the projected program costs (direct/indirect), and revenues for the proposed program.

Criterion 6: Program Potential [16%]

Question 6.1 Improved Effectiveness: Discuss what existing (shared resource opportunities within other programs or units, collaborative opportunities etc.) and/or other potential interdisciplinary opportunities are being leveraged for enhancing the effectiveness of the proposed program.

Question 6.2 Disciplinary Efforts: Describe what actions will be necessary to make the proposed program exemplary in the discipline.