New Proposal

Date Submitted: 04/27/22 3:49 pm

Viewing: Human Resources Management, CERT

Last edit: 05/26/22 2:29 pm
Changes proposed by: Eden Haycraft

Approval Path
1. 04/27/22 4:25 pm
   Deb Forgacs (dforgacs):
   Approved for U Program Review
2. 04/28/22 10:24 am
   Becky Barker (ebarker):
   Approved for 1568 Head
3. 04/28/22 10:25 am
   Lynne Hoveln (lhoveln):
   Approved for LG Dean
4. 04/28/22 11:08 am
   John Wilkin (jpwilkin):
   Approved for University Librarian
Proposal Type

Proposal Type:
Major (ex. Special Education)

Administration Details

Official Program Name
Human Resources Management, CERT

Sponsor College
Labor & Empl. Relations, School of

Sponsor Department
Labor & Employment Relations

Sponsor Name
Eden Haycraft

Sponsor Email
ehaycra@illinois.edu

College Contact
Becky Barker
Email
ebarker@illinois.edu

College Budget Officer
Wyatt Martin

College Budget Officer Email
wjmartin@illinois.edu

List the role for rollbacks (which role will edit the proposal on questions from EPC, e.g., Dept Head or Initiator) and/or any additional stakeholders. Purpose: List here who will do the editing work if proposal needs rolled back. And any other stakeholders.  
Eden Haycraft (ehaycra@illinois.edu), Becky Barker (ebarker@illinois.edu), Amit Kramer (kram@illinois.edu)

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?
No

Proposal Title
Effective Catalog Fall 2022
Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Management in the School of Labor and Employment Relations and the Graduate College

List here any related proposals/revisions and their keys. <i>Example: This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145) and the Concentration B proposal (key 203).</i>

This Human Resources Management, CERT (key 1123) is related to the Fundamentals of Human Resources, CERT (key 1119), Compensation Best Practices, CERT (key 1121), and Human Resources Data Analytics, CERT (key 1126)

Program Justification

Provide a <b><i>brief</i></b> justification of the program, including highlights of the program objectives, and the careers, occupations, or further educational opportunities for which the program will prepare graduates, when appropriate.

Establish financial aid opportunities for students that want to pursue one or more certificate tracks prior to committing to a master's program. This would also target career changers or experienced HR professionals that have already received masters’ degrees. Establishing the certificate programs as eligible for financial aid will also assist students seeking to utilize their veteran grant benefits. Financial aid options are especially important for students of color who contemplate advancing their education.

LER launched a little c certificate program (non-degree seeking) in Fall 2020 which consisted of four program tracks. Since the program’s inception we have enrolled 14 students, seven of which have completed at least one certificate track and five of those students have applied and been admitted into the master's program. The certificate tracks have become a great way to recruit and retain our master’s students. Within the past year and a half the biggest barrier for prospective students is the lack of financial aid resources.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

No

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Program Regulation and Assessment
Below is a subset of learning outcomes from our MHRIR degree program. These outcomes are specific to the Human Resources Management Certificate. LER utilized HRCI’s Human Resources Body of Knowledge to inform our learning objectives and has recently (January 2022) received “exceeds expectations” score from the Office of the Provost Learning Outcomes Assessment of its MHRIR degree program.

1. Students will apply Business Management and Strategy to shape immediate and long-term HR activities, practices, and policies. Students will critically examine the complex link between strategy and business practices, understand and apply workforce metrics to drive decision-making, and apply a strategic lens to international human resources.
2. Students will lead Employee and Labor Relations by managing workforce relationships, developing inclusive and respectful company culture, and building communication systems.
3. To support Human Resource Development, students will support organizational priorities by managing employee performance through evaluating gaps between employee performance and the desired state, building programs to address these gaps, and designing strategies for motivating employees.
4. Students will be able to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to act strategically when making decisions in business and in life.
5. Students will be effective leaders of change and apply interpersonal skills to work well in cross-functional teams.

We have been assessing the learning outcomes through two different strategies. One being ICES evaluations at the end of the course to assess their overall course experience. We also do a separate assessment that examines if program expectations were met in terms of content and to determine areas of improvement. This is often sent to students within two months of completing the program.

Is the career/profession for graduates of this program regulated by the State of Illinois?

No
Program Overview:
The online certificate program consists of a variety of tracks and each track has three courses (12 credit hours total, four credit hours per course). Each course in the certificate program is either six or eight weeks long. You can choose to engage in one or more certificate program tracks. Once you have received one or more certificates, and decide you are interested in the full Master of Human Resources and Industrial Relations (MHRIR) program, you are able to apply for the online master’s program.

Each certificate program track takes between 7 to 10 months to complete.

How do I know if the certificate program is for me?

Are you....

-working in HR with no HR background?

-employed by an organization that provides tuition reimbursement, but the reimbursement amount isn’t equivalent to a full degree program?

-seeking to gain more knowledge in HR but either unable to or prefer not to attend graduate school?

-currently in HR and seeking to freshen-up your knowledge? This group may include, for example, individuals who started in HR, left HR for different reasons or even left the labor force.

-seeking to enter the HR field or change positions within your organization to HR, but do not want to commit/can’t commit to a full degree?

-an individual who wants to know more about HR in general prior to embarking on a full degree program?

If you answered ‘yes’ to one or more of these questions, then this certificate program may be the perfect fit for you.

What is required to apply for one of these certificate programs?
Please note all applicants must have received a bachelor’s degree prior to starting one of our certificate program tracks.

- Application
- Resume
- Official Transcripts
- English Proficiency Exam for international students
- Phone Interview – Contacted after application is reviewed for a phone conversation regarding interest in the certificate program.

Human Resources Management Certificate Overview:
Topics include managing and motivating employees effectively as well as the core skills needed within HR regarding change management.

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog
Students who have successfully completed the Human Resources Management certificate may use the certificate to satisfy the following degree requirements, provided they apply and are admitted to the degree program: 4 hours of core and 8 hours of elective coursework requirements of the MHRIR degree program (12 hours total)
Certificate fulfills the HR Management and Organization Behavior distribution requirement

Course List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LER 597</td>
<td>Employee Motivation &amp; Performance</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corresponding Degree
CERT Campus Graduate Certificate

Program Features

Academic Level Graduate

Does this major have transcripted concentrations? No

What is the typical time to completion of this program? 6 months

What are the minimum Total Credit Hours required for this program? 12

What is the required GPA? 2.75

CIP Code 521001 - Human Resources Management/Personnel Administration,
General.
Is This a Teacher Certification Program?
No
Will specialized accreditation be sought for this program?
No

Delivery Method
This program is available:
Online Only - The entire program is delivered online, students are not required to come to campus.

Describe the use of this delivery method:
The program is hybrid synchronous and asynchronous. Each course has a required, once a week two-hour live Zoom session where students gather with their peers and the instructor. These live zoom sessions include lectures, activities, students’ presentations, and other interactions involving the course content.

Institutional Context
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Describe the historical and university context of the program’s development. Include a short summary of any existing program(s) upon which this program will be built.

Explain the nature and degree of overlap with existing programs and, if such overlap exists, document consultation with the impacted program’s home department(s).

LER has four certificate program tracks that are stackable and transferable into LER's MHRIR programs. An additional application needs to be completed to be considered for the master's programs that requires three letters of recommendation and a personal statement. LER allows participants of one of the certificate tracks to utilize up to two LER faculty for recommendation letters. Individuals admitted into the master’s program upon completion will be able to utilize their certificate credits towards the 48-hour MHRIR degree requirements. Career services benefits become available once an individual is admitted to the master's program.

University of Illinois

Briefly describe how this program will support the University's mission, focus and/or current priorities. Demonstrate the program's consistency with and centrality to that mission.

The Human Resources Management Certificate allows a more accessibility for continuing education for diverse populations. It allows them to meet their career and personal goals. The certificate tracks allow individuals to take on less of a financial burden to learn a new skillset. It also targets individuals that have already received a degree and want to engage in upskilling of human resources best practices.
**Admission Requirements**

Desired Effective: Fall 2022  
Admissions Term

Provide a brief narrative description of the admission requirements for this program. Where relevant, include information about licensure requirements, student background checks, GRE and TOEFL scores, and admission requirements for transfer students.

To apply to the certificate program within LER, prospective students must submit an updated resume and official transcripts. In order to qualify for the certificate, one must have completed an undergraduate degree. Some certificates require an undergraduate statistics course in order to proceed through the program. Following the application an interview is setup with the Associate Director of Graduate Online Programs to discuss program fit and the applicant's background. An admissions decision is made after the interview with the candidate. If a certificate student wants to pursue the master's degree following the completion of a certificate, they must then submit an application for the MHRIR program. That application would then require a personal statement along with three letters of recommendation. Certificate students can ask up to two of their instructors from the LER program to write letters for their master's application.

Describe how critical academic functions such as admissions and student advising are managed.

The Associate Director of Online Graduate programs would manage recruitment, admissions, onboarding/orientation, and advising for the certificate students. There will be one contact person for all necessary components of the certificate program to keep it simple and consistent for all certificate applicants.

**Enrollment**

Number of Students in Program (estimate)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year One Estimate</th>
<th>3-7</th>
<th>5th Year Estimate (or when fully implemented)</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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Estimated Annual Number of Degrees Awarded

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<th>Year One Estimate</th>
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</table>

What is the matriculation term for this program?  
Spring/Summer/Other

Please give an explanation of why fall matriculation is not applicable:

Prospective certificate students can start the program in Fall, Spring or Summer semesters.

**Budget**
Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget Information

Attach File(s)  
Human Resources
Management_CERT_Self_Supporting_Designation Signed.pdf

Financial Resources

How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

All certificate students are a part of the master's program, so no additional costs will be added through faculty or advisors until the program grows substantially in which case the tuition dollars will cover program expenses since our online programs are self-supporting.

Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources?

No

Attach letters of support

What tuition rate do you expect to charge for this program? e.g., Undergraduate Base Tuition, or Engineering Differential, or Social Work Online (no dollar amounts necessary)

MHRIR online credit hour rate

Is this program requesting self-supporting status?

Yes

Resource Implications

Facilities

Will the program require new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities?

No

Technology

Will the program need additional technology beyond what is currently available for the unit?

No

Non-Technical Resources

Will the program require additional supplies, services or equipment (non-technical)?

No

Resources
For each of these items, be sure to include in the response if the proposed new program or change will result in replacement of another program(s). If so, which program(s), what is the anticipated impact on faculty, students, and instructional resources? Please attach any letters of support/acknowledgement from faculty, students, and/or other impacted units as appropriate.

Attach File(s)

Faculty Resources

Please address the impact on faculty resources including any changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc. Describe how the unit will support student advising, including job placement and/or admission to advanced studies.

Current faculty and staff resources are sufficient to support this certificate program. Students within the certificate program participate and interact within the same classrooms as the master's students. We currently have the capacity to admit up to another 40 students each academic year before we would need to consider hiring any additional faculty. This expense would be the same if the LER master's program continues to grow. There is a designated staff member to assist with student advising as well as assisting interested certificate students in applying for the master's program. As of right now, there aren't job placement resources for these students as that is the major differentiator between the master's and certificate program options. LER is dedicated to keeping course sizes for all online programs at a 35:1 student to faculty ratio. This was a recommendation from CITL during the creation of the online master's program in 2015.

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

Library collections, resources and services are sufficient to support.

Market Demand

What market indicators are driving this proposal? If similar programs exist in the state, describe how this program offers a unique opportunity for students:

Barriers to entry within our certificate programs have driven this proposal. The certificate program options are a great opportunity for individuals that may not be able to commit to the entire financial obligations that a master's degree has, it also allows for individuals that are not yet fully prepared to be admitted to a master's program the opportunity to take graduate level courses to prove they're ready. Alumni of HR master's programs that have been working in the field for a while but need a refresher or current best practices on a topic may also find this transcripted certificate beneficial. Since the little c certificate launched in Fall 2020 we have heard from many prospective students that paying out of pocket for a certificate ($8,880 per certificate) puts the credential beyond their financial means. Since the little c certificate is currently considered a non-degree seeking program individuals have also had trouble utilizing their veteran grants to participate in a certificate track (another barrier of entry).
There needs to be more opportunities on Illinois’ campus to educate others on human resources best practices. As of right now we offer two different campus master’s/PhD programs within Human Resources (MHRIR and EPOL), and there aren’t any formalized certificate programs.

The field of human resources has become very important throughout the pandemic as organizations try to find a way to engage a workforce that is hybrid or fully remote. This has posed lots of questions as people begin to return to work surrounding vaccination mandates and sick leave for COVID related quarantine guidelines. LER has had alums reach out seeking educational opportunities for their staff, and prospective students seeking ways to learn more about HR as the space is evolving.

Another emerging need is to educate human resources professionals on the importance of a diversified workplace as well as ways to support employees while at work. People are resigning from work at an alarming rate due to working conditions.

What resources will be provided to assist students with job placement?

As of right now only students within the master’s programs receive assistance from Career Services, it is one of the benefits to pursuing the master's over the certificate tracks. So far nearly half of our certificate participants have applied for and been admitted to our online master's where they can then work with the program Career Consultant. If our certificate program continues its growth, we would consider extending the Career Consultant services to the certificate program.

If letters of support are available attach them here:
requires HLC inquiry

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

Program Code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor Code</th>
<th>Conc Code</th>
<th>Degree Code</th>
<th>Major Code</th>
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Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

Effective Date:

Attached Document

Justification for this request

Program Reviewer Comments

Deb Forgacs (dforgacs) (02/03/22 10:57 am): Rollback: requested.


Key: 1123
<table>
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Total Hours: 12
PROGRAM TUITION WAIVER POLICY PROPOSAL

Proposals to establish or revise tuition waiver policy for a graduate program will follow a shared governance approval process (Department, School, College, Graduate College).

Definitions of Tuition Waiver Policy Designations:

Traditional Programs. Programs either designated as generating full or base-rate tuition waivers. Base rate waivers waives only the Resident Graduate Base tuition amount. Non-Residents or students in a program with an additional tuition differential will be responsible for the remaining portion of tuition.

Reimbursable Programs. Programs identified as programs that would be reimbursed from an appointing unit outside their academic college.

Cost-recovery and self-supporting programs. Students in approved cost-recovery and self-supporting programs are not eligible to receive tuition and fee waivers except statutory waivers. Students in these programs are not eligible to hold a waiver generating graduate appointment (Assistantship or Fellowship). Full time employees may be admitted to these programs, but their employee waiver is not eligible for use towards a program with this designation.

Additional information related to these tuition waiver designations can be found here: https://grad.illinois.edu/handbook/program-tuition-waiver-designations.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

COLLEGE OR SCHOOL: School of Labor & Employment Rel. (CLER)

PROGRAM(s) (Include Program Codes if applicable): Subject of MHR1R: HR & Indus Relns

REQUESTED DESIGNATION (Select desired designation type):

- Self-Supporting

Comments: Human Resources Management, CERT (Key 1123)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
217.333.0035 • (f) 217.333.8019 • grad@illinois.edu • grad.illinois.edu
JUSTIFICATION: On a separate sheet, please address the following.

1. Describe the reasons for this request and explain: (a) the pros and cons of the classification requested, and (b) how the requested classification will benefit and not adversely affect the academic quality of the program.

2. What type of financial assistance will be offered to students in the program?

3. Has this program had past practice of offering graduate assistantships? If so, please describe.

4. What provisions will be made to communicate the new classification to prospective and newly admitted students?

APPROVALS: (May use Adobe Signature or print and sign the document)

Department Executive Officer Signature and Date: [Signature] 2/24/22

Disciplinary College Signature and Date: [Signature] 2/24/22

Graduate College Signature and Date: Allison McKinney 2/24/22
1. Describe the reasons for this request and explain: (a) the pros and cons of the classification requested, and (b) how the requested classification will benefit and not adversely affect the academic quality of the program.

The four certificate tracks that are being proposed as self-supporting as they are all a part of our current online MHRRIR program that is already designated as self-supporting. The certificate students will take the same courses as the online students and will be able to utilize all the resources from our already established online self-supporting program.

2. What type of financial assistance will be offered to students in the program?

Online MHRRIR students are not offered financial assistance through our department. Anyone taking classes within our self-supporting programs do not receive financial assistance.

3. Has this program had past practice of offering graduate assistantships? If so, please describe.

No, our online MHRRIR program does not offer graduate assistantships as most students are not located in the area. Prospective students are informed that there is no departmental financial support nor opportunities to be employed via a graduate assistantship.

4. What provisions will be made to communicate the new classification to prospective and newly admitted students?

There will not be any changes concerning our certificate programs communication except the potential opportunity for incoming certificate students to apply for financial aid through FAFSA. We currently offer all proposed certificates as a non-degree seeking option - departmental financial assistance and assistantships have never been communicated to online students.
Hi Eden,

Thank you for your understanding.

The proposal is being rolled back to you so that you can amend the course tables and add the new designations.

I look forward to receiving it back, and then presenting it.

All best,

Jennie

JENNIFER N. PAHRE  
Teaching Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies  
College of Law  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
202 Law Building | M/C 594  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217.333.0712 | jpahre@illinois.edu  
www.law.illinois.edu

Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

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From: Haycraft, Eden <ehaycra@illinois.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Pahre, Jennie <jpahre@illinois.edu>
Cc: Moorhouse, Linda <moorhouz@illinois.edu>; Martensen, Kathy <kmartens@illinois.edu>; Lehman, Barbara J <bjlehman@illinois.edu>
Subject: RE: EP 22.131

Hi Jennie,

Thank you for the feedback. I think this makes complete sense and I will work with the instructors
Hi Eden,

I am pleased to advise you that three of your four pending EP proposals, EP 22.128, EP 22.129, and EP 22.130, passed the Senate Educational Policy Committee at today's meeting.
EP 22.131 was not approved, although the Committee sees the need for it, and would very much like to approve it. It was delayed for one reason: the various LER 590 courses that are part of it should be identified as separate courses in the University CIM (Course Inventory Management) Program System. Members of EP expressed concern that having too many 590 courses creates problems with transcription and degree audits. They were firm that these courses need separate designations in the system to avoid these problems. If the courses can be put into the system, with links to CIM, we should be all set.

The last meeting of the Senate will be on April 25. The Educational Policy Committee would need to approve EP 22.131 at the meeting on April 18 for it to be rolled out along with the other three programs.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I would very much like to be able to present the proposal on April 18.

All best,
Jennie

JENNIFER N. PAHRE
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Thank you, Eden; I think that your responses have helpfully resolved our questions.
Barb, would you please include this email chain in the materials associated with these new proposals?

With thanks to all,
Jennie

JENNIFER N. PAHRE
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---

From: Haycraft, Eden <ehaycra@illinois.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Pahre, Jennie <jpaehre@illinois.edu>
Cc: Moorhouse, Linda <moorhouz@illinois.edu>; Martensen, Kathy <kmartens@illinois.edu>
Lehman, Barbara J <bjlehman@illinois.edu>
Subject: RE: New EP Proposals to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program

Hi Jennie,

Thank you for your response and feedback on when to terminate the “little c” program. I appreciate that. I have answered your other questions below in blue. Please let me know if you have additional questions.
Hi Eden,

Thank you for your very prompt and helpful response.

The choice of maintaining the "little c" program until the currently enrolled students finish would be an easy and correct option. You could offer the transfer choice to enrolled students, once the new "big C" program is in place; if no one stays in the "little c" program, you could then file a new proposal to terminate it. (Others copied on this email may have a better perspective.) I do know that there's a strong preference to permit students to finish existing programs.

I just received a few more late-breaking questions (I'm sorry to send them in bunches, I know it's less convenient).

They are:

1. Re: EP.22.128 Compensation Best Practices, CERT (same concerns for Ep 22.129, 22.130, 22.131)
   The catalog entry indicates there are multiple tracks for the certificate program. This appears to be talking about all their certificate programs (with each designated as a track). It would be helpful to clarify that the Compensation Best Practices certificate is one of multiple certificates in their program and keep the terminology consistent (it appears that certificate and track is used interchangeably). This is a correct assessment. We have four different certificate tracks under our certificate program. I can most certainly see how that is confusing for someone that is brand new to learning our certificate program. Compensation Best Practices is its own certificate track. Should I go in and edit this a bit within each proposal or do my answers by email suffice?

2. Re: EP.22.130 Human Resources Data Analytics
   In addition to the general comments that span the proposed certificates from this program, how often is specific section of LER 590 offered (it is an individual topics course with varying content). We are currently working with our instructors to get new names associated with them.
We grew rather quickly so we have entered our courses in initially as LER 590 courses but we do place the names of the courses as they are individual topics within Banner. These are NOT independent studies.

3. Re: EP.22.131 Human Resources Management

It appears that students could complete this certificate taking only LER 590 courses. In addition to the question of the availability of these sections, I believe there may also be transcript issues. Will they all simply show up as LER 590 (possibly with the initials for the section)? Would it not better for these sections to have their own course numbers? In the process of getting courses their own course numbers, all courses in the program have a designated title and course description. You can view those names and topics here.

Again, thank you for your kind assistance.

All best,
Jennie

JENNIFER N. PAHRE  
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From: Haycraft, Eden <ehaycra@illinois.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Pahre, Jennie <jpahre@illinois.edu>
Cc: Moorhouse, Linda <moorhouz@illinois.edu>; Martensen, Kathy <kmartens@illinois.edu>;
Hi Jennie,

Thank you so much for reaching out with your follow-up questions. Please see my responses below and let me know if you have any additional questions.

We will have around 3 to 5 certificate students enrolled in our little-c certificate in Fall 2022, I can see this going two ways.

Option 1: Since the students that are currently pursing the little-c have been informed there is no financial aid support available they can finish their certificates the way they started in the little-c program and pay out of pocket for the certificate. This wouldn’t change anything about the plan already set for them and we could retire the little-c as soon as the 3-5 students complete their programs.

Option 2: Students can transition to the new certificate program and we can retire the little-c immediately. This may be the best option, but I would have to speak with someone from The Graduate College to know how it will work.

If I need to submit anything as it pertains to eliminating the old program, please let me know. Regardless of the option we proceed with or what your committee or others advise, we will retire the old program.

In regards to the financial aid component, current certificate students are not able to apply for financial aid through the Office of Student Financial Aid so financing is completely up to the student. Most that have enrolled in our current program either have tuition assistance from employers or the money to pay out of pocket. By putting in the proposal for the new certificate, if approved, students admitted to the certificate program will be able to work with the campus financial aid office to learn about their eligibility for loans. As the current certificate stands, there isn’t the option for applying for financial aid loans nor are non-degree courses offered through the Veteran’s Grant. I hope this provides a bit of clarity as to how students can access financial support.

I am happy to answer any additional questions.

Best,

Eden

EDEN HAYCRAFT
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

School of Labor and Employment Relations
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
504 E. Armory Ave. | MC-504
Dear Professor Haycraft,

I hope that your week is off to a great start.

This year, I am the chair of subcommittee A of the Senate Educational Policy Committee. I am writing to you because four proposals you've sponsored have come to my subcommittee for review. They are:

EP.22.128 – New, Compensation Best Practices, CERT  
EP.22.129 – New, Fundamentals of Human Resources, CERT  
EP.22.130 – New, Human Resources Data Analytics, CERT  
EP.22.131 – New, Human Resources Management, CERT

The proposals seek to establish an online Campus Graduate Certificate Program in Labor & Employee Relations. The subcommittee notes that each proposed track has appropriate courses, learning outcomes and assessments. We think the new program offers useful training and credentials. Subcommittee A is firmly in support.

There are a few questions from members of my subcommittee that I'm hoping you can help with. I'd like to present your proposals with all the questions answered.

First, it looks like LER would like to transform its existing certificate program into a "big C" Certificate program -- which would involve eliminating the old program. (Please let me know if I've got that right.)  If this is the case, we'd need to understand how the students currently enrolled will be handled -- and we may need a separate deactivation proposal.
Second, there's a question about the financial aid part. In the justification sections, the proposals note that the new Certificate tracks will “Establish financial aid opportunities for students that want to pursue one or more certificate tracks prior to committing to a master’s program.” Subsequently, this justification states that the little-c certificate tracks currently are “a great way to recruit and retain our master’s students [but that] the biggest barrier for prospective students is the lack of financial aid resources.” We understand that the current cost of $8,800 to obtain a certificate would be a difficult burden for many students.

Certainly, the lesser cost of a Certificate relative to completing a full master’s program lowers the financial barrier of entry, rendering the proposed Certificates more accessible than a master’s degree. Your proposal notes that the new Certificate program would be part of the Master’s program, which makes it eligible for veteran grants. This is a justifiable reason for the change. But can you explain LER's vision a bit more fully — if this is the reason to make the change, how will LER help students with advising on financial aid matters? We see that there is one designated curricular advisor, but the proposals don't talk about advising on financial aid. It sounds like this would be rather important, as it is the driver behind the proposals.

Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

All best,

Jennie

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