

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2003



Two degree programs approved

Two new undergraduate degree programs received approval from the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees at the May meeting of the board.

A bachelor's degree in early childhood education and one in international studies could be implemented as early as fall 2003 pending approval of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and other state agencies.

The early childhood education degree will prepare prospective teachers for positions in preschool through third grade. It also will provide a degree option for adults currently employed in preschool settings who want to earn a degree.

The early childhood education degree requires 124 semester hours of course work including the core courses, a professional education component that includes courses and experiences common to all teacher education courses of study, courses in the major, and electives. The program requires practical experience working with young children for four semesters, three of which will involve intensive experience in classrooms. Students will be placed in two early childhood education settings.

The international studies degree is an interdisciplinary program. Students in this major will be prepared to live and work in the multicultural world of today.

This program builds upon an earlier focus on Latin American studies, expanding that interest far more extensively. Students enrolled in the program will take courses in international studies, University Core Curriculum, and open electives.

Faculty from the School of Liberal Arts, the School of Business, and the Pott School of Science and Engineering developed the program based on student demand for the program.

Graduates of the program will have a variety of employment opportunities in international business, government service, journalism, international service agencies, and tourism. And students will be prepared to pursue graduate work in disciplines ranging from international law to tourism and hotel management.

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