Name of institution: Iowa State University

Date submitted: ______________________________________________________________

Name of program: Master of Public Administration

CIP Code: 44.0401

College: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Level: B _______ M X ______ D _______ FP ______

Degree abbreviation (e.g., B.S., B.A., M.A., etc.): M.P.A.

Action requested: Reduced admissions _____ Program suspension _____ Program termination X_____

The request for admission reduction, program suspension, or program termination shall be reviewed in-depth by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts. With the recommendation for approval by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts, the request for admission reduction, program suspension, or program termination shall be submitted to the Board of Regents for discussion and action.

The institution shall not communicate to the public its intended action to limit enrollment, suspend the program, or terminate the program until it is been approved by the Board of Regents.

☑ Provide a brief description of the program.

The Public Policy and Administration program offers work for the professional Master of Public Administration degree (MPA). The program is designed to educate and train students for careers in management and policy analysis at the federal, state, and local levels of government, and nonprofit sector management. The program serves a diverse student body, including pre-service students and in-service employees in government and nonprofit organizations. The curriculum covers a broad range of public administration and policy topics, including organizational and administrative processes, eGovernment, leadership, organizational change dynamics, human resource management, budgeting, cost benefit analysis, financial management, policy analysis, and ethics. The program offers three concentrations: Public Management, eGovernment and Management of Information Technology, and Policy Analysis. The MPA degree requires 37 credits, which includes (a) 15 credits in core competency, (b) 9 credits in one of the concentration areas, (c) 4 credits in other required courses, (d) up to 7 credits of electives, and (e) 3 credits of creative component (a capstone project) or a minimum of 3 credits of research (thesis). Pre-service students are encouraged to obtain an internship for 3 credits.

The Program also offers a Graduate Certificate of Public Management program (GCPM), which requires a completion of 15 credits: 9 credits in the core, and two additional courses in the area of student interest. Some classes are available via videoconferencing, streaming video, one week and executive weekend formats, and online. The Program also offers joint master’s degrees with the Department of Community and Regional Planning (25 credits in each program plus a six credit thesis), and the interdisciplinary Information Assurance program (30 credits). The requirement for all double degrees consists of 22 credits from each discipline for a total of 54 credits. Under the rules of the Graduate College a graduate student may pursue a joint degree between any two disciplines of their interest. Interested students are encouraged to consult the ISU’s Graduate Handbook. The minimum requirements for all double degrees consist of 22 credits from each program.
Requirements for admission are a graduate school application, an essay stating purposes for study, college transcripts, the GRE (waived for those with five or more years of public or nonprofit sector experience), three letters of recommendation, and the TOEFL for international students.

☑ Provide a brief rationale for the requested action.
Budgetary pressures have made continuation of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) problematic. Funds are not available to recruit and retain full-time faculty to staff the five faculty positions that are required for accreditation of the MPA program through the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

☑ Describe how students currently admitted to or eligible for admission to the program will be accommodated; what kind of transition period is planned; length of transition period.
Currently strong enrollments in MPA courses suggest a continued need for faculty to present courses to complete degree requirements for students currently in the MPA program. It is anticipated that phasing out the program will require at least three years from the Fall 2013 entry date of the final cohort admitted to the MPA program; that is, program phase-out could be completed by Spring 2016, following termination in Spring 2014. Students currently admitted or eligible for admission will have the opportunity to choose between the existing MPA program and a newly-developing option within the Political Science Master of Arts degree. The latter will feature a strong track in public policy in addition to the existing tracks in international relations, comparative politics, and American politics.

The track should be fully implemented before the completion of current students’ program of study. At the point that the new option is authorized to accept students, they will have the opportunity to select between completing the MPA and switching into the new degree option without any loss of credits.

It will not be possible to guarantee the continued availability of all courses currently offered by the Department of Political Science from which students may select to satisfy degree requirements for the MPA. As the new graduate program becomes available, current faculty resources and graduate student funding will be repositioned to address the needs of students in the new program. Accommodations will be made to assist MPA students fulfill their degree requirements, including the use of courses offered by other departments and programs at Iowa State University and the transfer within the usual limit of 9 credit hours of relevant graduate credits from other accredited institutions.

☑ Describe the effect on costs of reducing enrollments or terminating the program, e.g., cost savings, etc.
Costs of program phase-out include $6,000 per course to be offered by temporary faculty to fulfill degree requirements for students remaining in the MPA degree program and approximately $13,000 in salary, fringe benefits, and tuition for graduate research assistant support to collect data and search records to meet reporting requirements for termination. In addition, front office staff time has been diverted from other tasks. A reduction in revenue from graduate tuition and fees is expected, in anticipation of a drop-off over the next few years in the total number of graduate students in the department.

Cost savings will occur at both faculty and student levels. Faculty resources would be available to teach higher-enrollment undergraduate courses and to offer graduate courses in the revised graduate program; in addition, less reliance should be needed on temporary faculty who are paid at the rate of $6,000 per course. Graduate assistantship funds currently assigned to MPA students would be available to attract students into the revised graduate program.

☑ Is program available elsewhere in the state? Identify the schools where the program is available and the current enrollment at those sites.
The University of Iowa does not offer degrees in public administration.
The University of Northern Iowa does not offer a MPA degree. However, UNI offers a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a Master of Public Policy. Drake University offers a Master of Public Administration degree through the College of Business and Public Administration. Approximately 200 students are active each semester.

☑ Describe a 5-year trend of applications in the academic program; describe 5-year trend of enrollments in the academic program.

**Applications** (Summer, Fall, Spring combined):

- 2008-2009: 22
- 2009-2010: 45
- 2010-2011: 41
- 2011-2012: 42
- 2012-2013: 50

**Admissions** (Summer, Fall, Spring combined): Number of students offered admission

- 2008-2009: 21
- 2009-2010: 40
- 2010-2011: 36
- 2011-2012: 21
- 2012-2013: 17

**Enrollments** (Summer, Fall, Spring): Number of new students enrolling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Describe a 5-year trend of graduations from the academic program.

Graduations (Summer, Fall, Spring, combined)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduations</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Is this intended to be a temporary or permanent change (applies only to reduced admissions)? If temporary, for how long?

The change is intended to be permanent.

How will the reduction or termination affect workforce needs in the state?

Termination of the MPA program at Iowa State University leaves Drake University as the only non-regent source of MPA degree credentials in the State of Iowa. This may result in some reduction in the total number of MPA-credentialed students available to populate management and other positions within the public and nonprofit sectors.

What is the anticipated impact on other programs? Will students likely go elsewhere?

A survey was conducted of students currently registered in the graduate program. Responses were received from 64 students, of whom 50 are in the MPA program, 13 in the Master of Arts program, and 1 in the joint MPA/Master of Community and Regional Planning degree. In response to the question “If the current MPA program were transitioned to a Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Policy degree program that offered the opportunity to focus in public policy in addition to current MA areas of emphasis, what do you believe you would be most likely to do?,” 42 (65.5%) of respondents selected “Complete an MPA degree under the current program” 11 (17.2%) selected “Complete an MA degree with an existing program focus,” 8 (12.5%) selected “Complete an MA degree with the new Public Policy focus,” 0 (0.0%) selected “Transfer to a different degree program at Iowa State University,” 3 (4.7%) selected “Leave ISU and pursue a graduate degree at a different institution,” and 0 (0.0%) selected “Leave ISU and not pursue further graduate education.” These results suggest that there would be only minimal loss of ISU students to other institutions with the termination of the MPA degree and that the vast majority (80%, or 42 of 50) of current MPA students would complete the MPA degree under the current program.

What is the anticipated impact on minorities and women?

No differential impact on women and minority students is anticipated.

Is a reduction in faculty, staff, facilities, etc. anticipated?

No reductions in tenure-track faculty positions are expected; however, fewer temporary faculty will need to be hired to teach courses in the graduate program. Staff reductions are underway due to other budgetary impacts.

Equipment and space currently occupied by MPA graduate students will be available for use by students in the revised graduate program.

Provide any other information that might be helpful to the Board of Regents in considering this request.