



New General Education Program Speeds Up, Simplifies Process

Northern Kentucky University administrators recently announced a new general education program that ***lowers to 37 the number of general education credit hours required to graduate.***

The program, called “Foundation of Knowledge,” takes effect this fall. It is designed around a set of core competencies faculty have identified as critical for all graduates.

“The faculty have worked very deliberately to design a program that will ensure our students possess the knowledge, skills and competencies required for an educated workforce and/or graduate study,” said NKU Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Gail Wells.

New Certificate Programs Offer Help to Professionals Hit Hardest by Economy

NKU recently announced the launch of two new certificate programs that offer career opportunities for professionals hit hardest by these challenging economic times.

The NKU Certificate in Healthcare Technology and the NKU Certificate in Business Process Analysis are offered exclusively for individuals who are eligible dislocated workers under the Workforce Investment Act. The funds are provided through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The certificates are adapted from coursework in NKU’s fully-accredited undergraduate programs in Business Informatics and will be provided in an intensive 12-week integrated lecture and lab format in which students will experience hands-on exercises reinforcing practical computer skills.

“These certificates are designed to provide skills that will dramatically improve the employability of individuals,” said Dr. Ben Martz, chair of NKU’s business informatics program. “We are concentrating on the skills that employers tell us they want in their employees.”

The health informatics certificate focuses on computer skills for the healthcare industry, including technology and protocols. The business process analysis certificate focuses on information technology competencies that will help qualify individuals for positions requiring advanced software skills.

The program is built around five core competencies: critical thinking, perspectives, communication, science and technology, and personal responsibility and community.

The new program is designed to guide students to become independent learners, innovative thinkers, and responsible citizens. It provides the values, knowledge and skills that will empower students to discover their personal potential, communicate effectively, work in diverse communities and solve problems in a global society.

The transition will not change a student’s current major requirements, and the university emphasized that no student will be disadvantaged by the program change.

Chase Clinic Will Assist Kentucky Small Businesses and Nonprofits

NKU’s Chase College of Law has established a Small Business & Nonprofit Law Clinic which will give students the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience providing legal assistance to local small business entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizers who would otherwise be unable to obtain legal counsel. It is the first clinic of its type in Kentucky.

“This clinic will enhance our students’ professional development through experiential learning in the transactional areas of business and nonprofit law including intellectual property law,” said Dean Dennis Honabach. “The clinic will provide needed assistance to underserved Kentucky small businesses and nonprofit organizations.”

Under the supervision of the clinic director, students will assess the needs of clinic clients, provide legal counsel, draft organizational documents and contracts, and otherwise provide legal services for clients.

“The clinic will provide superb opportunities for our students to learn first-hand what it takes to be an attorney as they meet with clients, review and prepare documents, and handle legal issues,” said center director Sherry Porter. “The students will also develop an understanding of how a law firm works as they learn new client procedures, case file management, and effective client communication.”

In March, NKU hosted a free ***Start-Up Slam*** to help local entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground. The event brought business veterans together with more than 80 aspiring entrepreneurs to share insights into marketing, revenue and expense forecasting, and pitching to investors. Attorneys were also on hand to assist with the formation and registration of new businesses. Sponsored by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, it was the largest Start-Up Slam to date.

