

# *PSM PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW*

## *FEASIBILITY DETERMINATION*

- Research jobs and labor markets for graduates in STEM fields, including employment projections and salaries.
- Identify programmatic foci that will be strongly supported by employers and faculty and will be of interest to students.
- Evaluate the expertise, interests, background, commitment, and availability of qualified faculty members.
- Consider university policies and culture including possible challenges to creating new programs.
- Explore prospective employers who will serve as members of an active advisory board.
- Prepare a business plan that projects both expenses and revenues, and that shows how and when each degree program can be sustain based on tuition revenues, corporate and university support and other sources of revenue within the institutional context [Not every institution will REQUIRE that every program be self-sustaining].

## *PSM CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT*

- Review the *Guidelines for Recognition of Professional Science Master's Programs* during the program development process.

The core curricular elements of PSM programs include:

- A majority of the course content in the natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and/or computational sciences
- A professional skills component that must be developed in consultation with leaders from industry, business, government, or non-profit organizations
- an experiential component that must include at least one capstone project, supervised collaboratively by faculty and employers, evaluated or graded by faculty and typically developed with an employer(s), which integrates the practical application of scientific and professional knowledge, behavior, and skills

- Establish an active external advisory board that will assist with clarifying program objectives, identifying expected learning and professional development outcomes, and ensuring that regional workforce needs will be met.
- Appoint or hire a program director or coordinator to manage the program development process and other associated responsibilities.
- Develop a student recruitment plan and allocate appropriate resources for effective implementation.

## *PSM PROGRAM ASSESSMENT*

- Develop systems for assessment and maintenance of quality control.
- Ensure that there is a plan to track PSM graduates and their progress.
- Maintain contact with other PSM programs to remain abreast of effective assessment practices.

Visit [www.sciencemasters.com](http://www.sciencemasters.com) for more information about PSM Programs.