

FORM J
BOARD OF REGENTS
INSTITUTIONAL PROCESS TO REQUEST ACADEMIC PROGRAM REDUCED ADMISSIONS,
PROGRAM SUSPENSION, OR PROGRAM TERMINATION
January 29, 2015

Name of institution: Iowa State University
Date submitted: 18 December 2023
Name of program: Doctoral Program in Rural, Agricultural, Technological, and Environmental History (RATE)
CIP Code: 54.0101
College: Liberal Arts and Sciences
Level: B _____ M _____ D X FP _____
Degree abbreviation (e.g., B.S., B.A., M.A., etc.): PhD
Action requested: Reduced admissions _____ Program suspension **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.
Students in the RATE program address significant and enduring questions about rural and agricultural communities throughout world history, technologies developed and employed by these communities, and environmental contexts in which they operate.
- Provide a brief rationale for the requested action.
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as part of the Reimagining LAS initiative, has significantly reduced the budget for the Department of History, resulting in the inability to continue funding the RATE program.
- 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.
The Department of History proposes a five-year sunset period, officially suspending admissions in Fall 2024 and graduating remaining RATE students in 2-5 years.
- Describe the effect on costs of reducing enrollments or terminating the program, e.g., cost savings, resource reallocations, etc.
Program suspension will reduce direct costs by approximately \$110,000 annually.

- 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 has a general doctoral program in history. The department reported 27 current PhD students in the program.

- Provide an annual analysis for a 5-year period of applications in the academic program; provide an annual analysis for a 5-year period of enrollments in the academic program.

Applications for the Ph.D. Program

2019	2020 ¹	2021	2022	2023 ²
9	4	0	9	0

Total Ph.D. Enrollment*

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
16	12	16	13	11

*Fall 10th day. RATE enrollments have always been limited by the availability of assistantship funding. Enrollment fluctuations sometimes result when student enrollment is not continuous year after year.

- Provide an annual analysis for a 5-year period of graduations from the academic program.

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	5	0	0	0

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

This will be a permanent change.

- How will the reduction or termination affect workforce needs in the state? Be as specific as possible.

No workforce reduction is anticipated.

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

Department of History graduate courses enroll students from graduate programs in Sustainable Agriculture, Anthropology, Classical Studies, Community and Regional Planning, English, Sociology, and Women and Gender Studies.

- What is the anticipated impact on minorities and women?

Our seminars' focus on issues of gender and race in the histories of rural life, agriculture, and technology has drawn many women into our graduate program.

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

While no direct reduction in faculty can be attributed to the suspension of the RATE PhD program, faculty time will be shifted from the doctoral program to the needs of our undergraduates.

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

¹ History faculty limited 2020 admissions and suspended 2021 admissions in response to Covid-19 pandemic.

² In light of "Reimagining LAS" cuts, the Department of History offered no incoming funding and the DoGE discouraged applications.