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CURRICULUM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SR-02-03-(62) 92 CC

Recommends approval of the listed **CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST** from the **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES**:

Action Requested: Addition of an Area of Emphasis in Family and Consumer Sciences—Preschool Education. (Provides dual teaching certification, Birth – Pre-Kindergarten and Preschool Special Education.)

Department: Human Development and Allied Technologies

Rationale: *The number of early education settings serving children from early infancy until school entry has increased dramatically during the last 15 years.

*Infant/toddler education and preschool education require distinctly different approaches from elementary education.

*Family and Consumer Sciences offers a Family and Child Development area of emphasis with many of the courses needed for the emphasis. Teacher Education also offers some of the necessary courses because it offers an endorsement to the elementary certificate for pre-kindergarten and special education (students interested in the early years often do not want the elementary certificate). By combining what exists, two new areas of certification can be offered with a relatively small number of new courses.

*In planning this area of emphasis, we believe it is in students' best interest and the best interest of the state and community to offer both certifications together. A student who is truly interested in the early years can focus extensively on that period. Additionally, in early education programs children who have special needs are taught in inclusive classrooms along with typically developing children. Teachers in the early years need training that focuses on the full range of educational need, birth through five years of age. This area of emphasis will provide the focus necessary for highly trained individuals to meet the full range of educational need prior to school entry.

*Recent national and state legislative actions have recognized the importance of the early years to later school success. These actions require appropriately trained teachers for early education classrooms prior to school entry.

*A serious shortage of persons certified in preschool education including infants, toddlers, preschool and preschool special needs exists. Educating certified teachers in the early years is a growth area.

*In conversations with the West Virginia Department of Education personnel and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources personnel, strong support for this type of dual certification exists and we are being encouraged to move ahead. This year county school systems and preschool programs are required to develop a plan to serve all four-year-old children and begin implementation in the years following. Because it takes four years to earn a degree and because sufficient certified teachers are not available, it is imperative that we get started.

Major: Family and Consumer Sciences. This Area of Emphasis is a collaboration within the College of Education and Human Services between the division of Teacher Education and the division of Human Development and Allied Technologies—Family and Consumer Sciences program area. Traditionally programs that focus on children prior to school entry are housed in Family and Consumer Sciences (Home Economics).

Curriculum:

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION
 Certification in Birth through Four and Preschool Special Education
 (area of emphasis)

**new courses*

TEACHING SPECIALIZATION—BIRTH THROUGH FOUR

	Hours:	
ART 335: Art Education	3	
*CI 322: Language, Literacy, Numeracy for Young Children	3	
*CI 323: Assessment in Early Childhood	3	
CI 459: Multicultural Influences in Education	3	
*FCS 102: Early Childhood Programs	3	
FCS 110: Food Selection and Preparation	3	
FCS 210: Nutrition	3	
FCS 215: Family Relationships	3	
FCS 303: Child Development	3	
*FCS 330: Infant/Toddler Environments and Relationships	3	
*FCS 331: Infant/Toddler Education: Practicum	3	
*FCS 430: Preschool Curriculum and Methods	3	
FCS 431: Guidance of the Young Child: Practicum	3	
FCS 432: Parenting	3	
FCS 435: Administration of Day Care Centers	3	
FCS 472: Internship (Capstone)	3	
HE 122: First Aid for Children and Infants	1	
MUS 342: Music in the Elementary Classroom	3	
		51

TEACHING SPECIALIZATION—PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION

	Hours:	
CISP 320: Survey of Exceptional Children I	3	
CISP 420: Survey of Exceptional Children II	3	
CISP 428: Special Needs in Early Childhood Education	3	
CISP 429: Introduction to Physically Handicapped	3	
*CISP 445: Intervention strategies for Preschool Special Education	3	
CISP 454: Working with Parents of Exceptional Children	3	
*CISP 455: Field Experience in Preschool Special Education	3	
		21

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CORE

	Hours:	
EDF 218: Child to Adolescent Development	3	
EDF 319: Applications of Learning Theory	3	
EDF 475: Schools in a Diverse Society	3	
		9

MARSHALL PLAN

47

TOTAL: 128

New Resources Required: Because many of the courses are already being taught, sufficient library resources exist. The topic areas of the new courses are briefly addressed in other courses; therefore necessary resources do exist even for the new courses.

The Early Education Center and the Child Development Academy offer four preschool classrooms and four infant/toddler classrooms with teachers who have sufficient training to supervise students in their field experiences.

Eight new courses are being proposed that focus specifically on the early years:

- Four of the courses are in Family and Consumer Sciences and include an introductory course to infant/toddler and preschool education, two methods courses—one for infant/toddlers and one for preschool and a field experience for infant toddlers (a field experience exists for preschool).
- Two courses under Curriculum and Instruction are being proposed that focus on literacy and assessment, two areas that requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act necessitate. These two courses are needed by the pre-kindergarten endorsement that already exists due to the new legislative initiatives.
- Two courses under Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education are being proposed. These courses focus on methods directed at special needs and a field experience.

In order to deliver the courses, an additional faculty position will ultimately be required:

- To get the program started, we are looking at some grant applications for possible funding of a temporary position and/or graduate assistants and part time faculty from the community. We have graduate students and community members who are very well qualified to deliver the courses.
- The COEHS Dean has indicated that because this is a growth area, a vacancy in another area that is not experiencing growth can be moved to this area if the enrollments are strong. This program will not be implemented until Fall, 2004, at the earliest and many of the courses already exist so any additional faculty may not be needed until 2005 or 06.

Statement of Non-Duplication: This field of study does not duplicate any other current program at the University. The only other institution to offer the Birth – Pre-K certification at this time is West Virginia University.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE:  DATE: 5-13-03

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/21/03

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

