

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF AFRICANA STUDIES AND MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

PREPARED BY: IAN MACGILLIVRAY

I. SUMMARY

This action item is for initial approval of two proposed secondary social studies teacher preparation programs at University of Northern Colorado: Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Mexican American Studies.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education determines approval of all teacher preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education in the state, upon receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reviewing and approving proposed teacher preparation programs is as follows: The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the proposed programs to ensure that the content of each program is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements for teacher licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. 22-60.5). The CDE makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, the DHE reviews the program proposals for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; screening and counseling of teacher candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field-based training; supervised field-based experience (at least 800 hours); and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base (C.R.S. 23-1-121(2)). In the case of private institutions, the DHE will review the proposal only for supervised field based experience (C.R.S. 23-1-121(5)).

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

At its meeting on September 11, 2008, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of both program proposals submitted by the University of Northern Colorado. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department (see attached letter).

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the department staff has confirmed that both program proposals meet all performance criteria.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

DHE staff recommend approval of both programs.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the letter of approval from the State Board of Education are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

VII. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

22-60.5 C.R.S.
23-1-121 C.R.S.