

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTERS IN EDUCATION –
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP COGNATE AT MESA
STATE COLLEGE**

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I. SUMMARY

In an effort to provide greater access to graduate programs that provide principal preparation and professional advancement for practicing K-12 teachers and administrators in Western Colorado, the Board of Trustees at Mesa State College has approved a second cognate within its Master of Arts degree in Education. A cognate is an area of specialization within a focused program of study leading to a Master's degree. Mesa's newest cognate consists of 24 hours of coursework relating to topics of educational leadership. The approval of this proposal will add twelve graduate classes in educational leadership to the existing Master of Arts in Education degree approved in 2005.

The Colorado State Board of Education (SBE) reviewed Mesa's proposal and determined that it meets the expectations and satisfies the SBE adopted standards. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the Commission approve this program proposal for teacher education licensure.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the Mesa State College proposal for the Master of Arts in Education – Educational Leadership Cognate.

MESA STATE ROLE AND MISSION

The proposed Education degree supports the College's mission as a "general baccalaureate and specialized graduate institution" that "shall offer liberal arts and sciences programs and a limited number of professional, technical, and graduate programs" (23-53-101). In statement of need for graduate programming at Mesa State, the General Assembly described:

"The greater Grand Junction area is the largest metropolitan area in the state that lacks a local institution of higher education with graduate program authority. The General Assembly further finds that persons living in Western Colorado have an increasing need for access to graduate courses and programs that cannot be met solely by institutions located in Eastern Colorado. The General Assembly therefore authorizes Mesa State College to offer graduate courses and programs in selected areas to ensure that persons living in Western Colorado will have

reliable, consistent, and cost-effective access to necessary graduate courses and programs” (23-53-115:1).

EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR THE PROGRAM

In the November 1, 2004, Western Colorado Educators (WCE) Summit hosted by Mesa State College, superintendents of 15 school districts within Mesa’s regional provider area voiced a need for graduate programs for their teachers to be offered through Mesa State to address issues of accessibility. Special need was expressed in terms of programs in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) endorsement as well as continuing content area/curriculum theory education. This program has been granted. There are 3 cohorts this year serving the region for this program offering an ESOL Master’s.

These needs were documented in an initial survey of those districts in terms of programming that Mesa State’s Center for Teacher Education might be able to service. Mesa County School District 51 has been especially prominent in their desire to see the Center for Teacher Education offer a master’s program for district teachers who are finding other options ineffective and/or unprofitable, according to Virginia Settle, the district’s Curriculum and Staff Development Coordinator. Need for an Educational Leadership licensing option has been expressed by a leadership team of local school administrators.

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND

The demand on the western slope for graduate degree programs in Education has been constant and consistent for over 20 years. A couple of excerpts from the proposal are detailed below:

2002-03

Degree	Program	College	Site	Enrollment
Master of Arts	Educational Leadership	ASC	Frisco	24
Master of Arts	Literature, Languages & Culture (Bilingual Ed.)	ASC	Glenwood Springs	25

2004-05

Degree	Program	College	Site	Enrollment
Master of Arts	Educational Leadership	UNC	Glenwood Springs	26

2005-06

Degree	Program	College	Site	Enrollment
Master of Arts	Educational Leadership	MSC	Grand Junction	27 1st Cohort

2006-07

Degree	Program	College	Site	Enrollment
Master of Arts	Educational Leadership	MSC	Grand Junction Rifle/Glenwood	22 projected 28 projected

DEMAND FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

A total of 57 students are currently enrolled in the first MA cohorts. Projected cohorts for 07-08 are enrollment numbers of 117 with 50 enrolled for educational leadership. Many potential graduate students have also accessed graduate programs available online and Mesa has seen an increase in the number of teachers pursuing this option.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-1-121. This program meets all performance measures.

Based on the complete syllabi received, and additional information, the CDE has determined that all standards for the Mesa State's Educational Leadership Cognate are being met. At its meeting on November 8, 2007, the SBE approved the program as proposed by Mesa State College.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Master of Arts in Education – Educational Leadership cognate program as proposed by Mesa State College.

V. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The program proposal from Mesa State College and the approval letters from the Colorado Department of Education and the Mesa State Board of Trustees are on file in the office of the Chief Academic Officer.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-121 C.R.S.
22-2-109 (3) C.R.S.