

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF M.A. THEATRE EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

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I. SUMMARY

This action item requests initial approval of a Master of Arts degree in Theatre Education: Theatre Educator Intensive at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). This proposed graduate program is for high school drama teachers who are currently licensed in Colorado and are returning for graduate level work to increase their depth of content knowledge in the theatre arts. State Board of Education approval is not required because this program is not intended to be used for the initial preparation and endorsement of drama teachers.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from UNC's proposal.

DESCRIPTION:

The proposed program will allow high school drama teachers in the state to earn their master's degree in theatre education during the summer months when they are not teaching. The program consists of two three-week summer institutes for eighteen credits; one three-credit 500 level or above approved UNC or transferable theatre course; three three-credit online courses spread out over two academic years (graduate transfer credits may also apply); and six credits of thesis advisement for a total of thirty-six credit hours spread out over the course of two academic years and two summer sessions.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:

The role and mission of University of Northern Colorado requires that the university shall be the primary institution for undergraduate and graduate degree programs for educational personnel preparation in the state of Colorado. The university shall offer masters and doctoral programs primarily in the field of education (C.R.S. §23-40-101). This proposed degree program supports this mission by providing professional development to Colorado's drama teachers.

ADMISSION AND GRADUATION STANDARDS:

Admission will be open to in-service teachers. A written thesis is required of all Master of Arts degree candidates in the School of Theatre Arts and Dance. In conjunction with the thesis, graduate students are required to direct a thesis production. Upon completion of the program, students will be required to demonstrate competence in the designated area of concentration in accordance with approved school standards. The student's committee must approve the candidate for graduation.

PROGRAM FACULTY:

The degree will be offered through the Office of Extended Studies. The Coordinator of the degree program will assign each student an academic advisor and a graduate committee. The academic advisor will serve as the chair of the graduate committee.

III. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Department staff have reviewed this proposed program and letters of assurances from academic administrators to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129.6. The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Master of Arts in Theatre Education degree submitted by University of Northern Colorado.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the proposal are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129.6