

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF SCIENCE TEACHER ENDORSEMENT WITH B.A. GEOLOGY; B.A. INTEGRATED PHYSIOLOGY; AND B.A. MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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I. SUMMARY

This action item requests initial approval of a secondary science teacher endorsement with the following three science degrees at the University of Colorado Boulder: Bachelor of Arts in Geology; Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Physiology; and Bachelor of Arts in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology.

II. BACKGROUND

The University of Colorado Boulder is already authorized to offer these three science degree programs. Pairing secondary science teacher preparation with these bachelor's degrees creates more opportunities for undergraduate students to pursue science education as a career option. It also helps fill the state need for highly qualified science teachers. All three program proposals fall within the credit limit of 138 credits previously granted for secondary science preparation programs.

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, upon receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reviewing and approving proposed teacher preparation programs is as follows: 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); CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE). Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, 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, 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 August 13, 2009, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of these program proposals. CDE staff transmitted the affirmative recommendation to the DHE.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, DHE staff confirmed that the program proposal meets all performance criteria.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the proposal to offer science endorsement with University of Colorado Boulder's B.A. Geology; B.A. Integrated Physiology; and B.A. Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology.

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.