

**TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHING, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

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**I. SUMMARY**

This item recommends approval for University of Colorado Denver (UCD) to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching, Learning and Development degree with teacher endorsement tracks in Early Childhood Education (8.01), Elementary Education (8.02) and Special Education Generalist (9.01). It should be noted that Commission approval is contingent upon State Board of Education's approval of the educator preparation content of this degree and its associated endorsement programs. State Board of Education is scheduled to vote on this at its August 14-15, 2013 meeting.

**II. BACKGROUND**

**COMMISSION AUTHORITY**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education's role and responsibility in the review of new academic programs at institutions operating under a performance contract is to confirm the proposed program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission (per §23-5-129, C.R.S.) and, in the case of educator preparation programs, to ensure the proposed program is aligned with the requirements of §23-1-121, C.R.S. The process for initial approval of new educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the content of the endorsement program(s) to ensure that the content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a candidate to meet the requirements for licensure and endorsement in Colorado (C.R.S. §22-60.5). Given that requirements are met, CDE recommends approval of the content to the State Board of Education. Once State Board of Education has approved the content, DHE reviews the proposed program for the following statutory performance criteria: a comprehensive admission system; ongoing advising and screening of candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field based training; supervised field based experience; and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)].

## **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROGRAM**

The following is summarized from UCD's proposal:

The School of Education and Human Development (SEHD) at the University of Colorado Denver proposes to offer a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree with a major in Teaching, Learning, and Development beginning in fall 2013. This four-year, interdisciplinary, professional degree program will prepare undergraduate students for careers in early childhood education, elementary education, or special education. The term "professional degree" is applicable to this BA program because it adheres to the professional teaching standards established by the Colorado Department of Education for early childhood education, elementary education, or special education. The program will offer flexible delivery and will complement the existing, liberal arts major and elementary licensure program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the SEHD. The new BA program has three goals:

The first goal is to provide multiple pathways to teaching for talented students from all backgrounds, including non-traditional students and those under-represented at universities and in P-12 education. This program is designed to build upon and leverage the experiences of diverse undergraduate students in order to respond to the strengths and needs of a rapidly diversifying P-12 student population.

The second goal is to promote inclusive educational practices for all learners by preparing teachers who (a) understand the nature of language and processes involved in second language acquisition, (b) can use accommodations in instruction and assessment for English learners at different levels of English language proficiency, (c) understand the characteristics of discourse in various content areas to better support English language learners' language, literacy, and content learning in English; and (d) can use accommodations in instruction and assessment for diverse learners including those from different ethnic, racial, ability, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The third goal is to offer teacher education students an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts degree that addresses the needs of the whole child and integrates the major content to support critical and conceptually-based thinking and the informed professional engagement of teachers in early childhood, elementary, and special education. The proposed program will emphasize the importance of a collaborative, interdisciplinary relationship between the three disciplines of early childhood, elementary, and special education. The program will target several groups of potential students including: incoming freshman; students who choose a teaching career later in their undergraduate education; students transferring from community college or other four-year institutions; and, students who are working as Paraprofessionals, Assistant Teachers, or Developmental Intervention Assistants in preschools or elementary schools.

Additional information on this proposed degree, unrelated to fit with statutory role and mission or educator preparation requirements, is attached (Attachment A).

### **III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL**

CDE staff will recommend State Board of Education approve of the content of the degree's Early Childhood Education (8.01), Elementary Education (8.02) and Special Education Generalist (9.01) endorsement programs at its August 14-15, 2013 meeting. The numbers in parentheses refer to the endorsement number in the *Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991*. Commission approval is contingent upon State Board of Education's approval of the content.

### **IV. STAFF ANALYSIS**

#### **ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

This degree supports UCD's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

*(b) ...The Denver campus shall offer baccalaureate, master's, and a limited number of doctoral degree programs, emphasizing those that serve the needs of the Denver metropolitan area... 23-20-101(1), C.R.S.*

Pursuant to §23-1-121(2), C.R.S., department staff reviewed this program and confirmed that it meets performance criteria.

#### **EDUCATOR PREPARATION STATUTORY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Pursuant to §23-1-121(2), C.R.S., department staff reviewed this program and confirmed that it meets performance criteria. Also, at its April 1, 2004 meeting, the Commission granted a waiver to all educator preparation programs to exceed 120 credits and contain up to 126 credits. This proposed degree is capped at 126 credits.

### **III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve University of Colorado Denver's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in in Teaching, Learning and Development degree with teacher endorsement tracks in Early Childhood Education (8.01), Elementary Education (8.02) and Special Education Generalist (9.01) contingent upon State Board of Education's approval of the educator preparation content of this degree and its teacher endorsement tracks.**

**IV. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Division and are available upon request.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-1-121 Commission directive - approval of educator preparation programs - review.  
C.R.S. §23-5-129 Governing boards - performance contract - authorization – operations.