

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval of University of Denver's proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Special Education degree with teacher licensure endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education Specialist (9.04).

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to §23-1-121, C.R.S., the Colorado Commission on Higher Education considers approval of all educator preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education. 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 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)].

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

At its meeting on May 15, 2013, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of University of Denver's proposal to offer Early Childhood Special Education Specialist (endorsement number 9.04) in the *Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991*). CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to DHE.

IV. DEPARTMENT REVIEW

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

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve University of Denver's proposal to offer a Master's of Arts in Early Childhood Special Education with teacher licensure endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education Specialist (9.04).

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-121 Commission directive - approval of educator preparation programs - review.