

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO OFFER DANCE EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

PREPARED BY: DR. ROBERT MITCHELL, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval to offer Dance Education (8.20) educator endorsement at the University of Northern Colorado.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education considers approval of all educator preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education, after receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for initial approval of new educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the endorsement program to ensure that its content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a candidate to meet the requirements for 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 department. Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, the department 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. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the University of Northern Colorado's Dance Education (8.20) endorsement program at its meeting February 18, 2015. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

This program supports the continued development of existing educators within the institution's College of Education. Individual students have the option of completing coursework for the endorsement within their existing master's degree program, or as an add-on, post-baccalaureate endorsement for existing educators. Coursework is aligned to provide theoretical and practical training for K-12 Colorado educators employed within a variety of educational environments. Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121(2), department staff reviewed the proposal and confirmed it meets the statutory performance criteria. The following is summarized from the institution's proposal:

1. **Comprehensive admission system:** UNC has established specific admission criteria for students pursuing a dance education endorsement. These criteria include:

candidates for the endorsement must possess a current valid teaching license, for students seeking a master's degree they must meet all admission criteria of the College of Education and the Graduate School at UNC, and all candidates must be in compliance with the institution's policy regarding background checks for existing educators.

2. **Ongoing screening and advising:** UNC has two lead faculty identified to provide advising for potential and current students, with additional support provided by existing advising staff within the College of Education. In addition, candidate screening is performed on an ongoing basis through academic review and individual progression through the proposed program.
3. **Course work and field-based training:** Courses within this program align pedagogical theory with practical application through the candidate's ongoing employment within an educational setting. Coursework for this new endorsement includes *Dance Lesson: Curriculum and Assessment Design*; *Dance Production Techniques*, and a sequence of two courses entitled *Doing, Teaching and Appreciating Choreography and Creative Movement*.
4. **Candidate skills and content knowledge:** This program aligns with the pedagogical sequence for Dance Education as specified by the Colorado Department of Education. As this program centers on the continual development of existing professionals in the school environment, the linkage developed in this program supports the enhancement of effective classroom instruction.
5. **Continual improvement:** The faculty within the program is committed to reviewing student and program development on a regular basis and modifying program objectives and processes in order to support teacher development and student success.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Dance Education (8.20) educator endorsement program at the University of Northern Colorado.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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

(2) The commission shall adopt policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in cooperation with the state board of education in developing the requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the requirements shall ensure that each educator preparation program complies with section 23-1-125, is

designed on a performance-based model, and includes:

(a) A comprehensive admission system that includes screening of a candidate's dispositions for the field in which he or she is seeking licensure, consideration of a candidate's academic preparation for entry into his or her desired endorsement area or areas, and preadmission advising for students who are considering becoming candidates. The department shall work in collaboration with the programs to define any dispositions considered to be appropriate for

educators.

(b) Ongoing advising and screening of candidates by practicing educators or faculty members;

(c) Course work and field-based training that integrates theory and practice and educates candidates in the methodologies, practices, and procedures of standards-based education, as described in parts 4 and 10 of article 7 of title 22, C.R.S., and specifically in teaching to the state academic standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-406, C.R.S., or, beginning December 15, 2012, teaching to the state preschool through elementary and secondary education standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-1005, C.R.S.;

(d) A requirement that, during the course of the preparation program, each teacher candidate in an initial licensure program complete a minimum of eight hundred hours, each principal and administrator candidate complete a minimum of three hundred hours, and each other advanced degree or add-on endorsement candidate complete appropriate supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards and includes best practices and national norms related to the candidate's endorsement;

(e) A requirement that each candidate, prior to graduation, must demonstrate the skills required for licensure, as specified by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109 (3), C.R.S., in the manner specified by rule of the state board;

(f) Comprehensive, ongoing assessment including evaluation of each candidate's subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to demonstrate skill in applying the professional knowledge base.