

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: TEACHING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AT REGIS COLLEGE, REGIS UNIVERSITY

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval for Regis College, Regis University to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education: Teaching for Social Justice degree with teacher endorsements in Elementary Education (8.02) and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22). Note that at its June 7, 2012 meeting, the Commission reversed its 1986 decision prohibiting institutions of higher education from offering bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education.

II. BACKGROUND

COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Commission's role and responsibility in the review of educator preparation programs at both public and private institutions, is 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 (§22-60.5, C.R.S.). 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 [§23-1-121(2), C.R.S.].

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROGRAM

The following is summarized from Regis College's proposal:

Presently, students seeking teaching licensure must major in another academic discipline, as well as complete licensure requirements. This new major would increase the visibility of the teaching licensure opportunities within a liberal arts context. It would also allow most of our elementary licensure students to complete their degree within 8 semesters, including their student teaching experience.

This major will prepare our pre-service teachers more fully to meet the needs of their students as well as allow the Regis College faculty (beyond our department) to continue to prepare teachers as social justice agents by serving our community. Students majoring in this degree will have teaching endorsements in Elementary Education (8.02), Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22), and either an additional endorsement in Special Education Generalist (9.06) or a concentration of study in Environmental Education. These students will also have the foundation of the Regis College Core, as well as additional coursework in one academic area.

Currently, teachers with expertise in these areas are in high demand. Content areas that are considered to be “high-need” in Colorado are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education, Mathematics, Science, and Special Education Generalist. This degree will prepare our elementary teachers to meet these needs.

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

State Board of Education approved the degree’s teacher preparation content at its August 14, 2013 meeting. The numbers in parentheses refer to the endorsement number in the *Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991*.

IV. STAFF ANALYSIS

EDUCATOR PREPARATION STATUTORY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Regis College’s proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education: Teaching for Social Justice degree with teacher endorsements approved by State Board of Education.

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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