

**TOPIC:** RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO OFFER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATOR ENDORSEMENT PROGRAMS AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-GLOBAL CAMPUS

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**I. SUMMARY**

This item consent recommends approval to offer Science (8.17) and Mathematics (8.14) educator endorsement programs at Colorado State University-Global Campus.

**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 CSU-Global Campus's Science (8.17) and Mathematics (8.14) educator endorsement programs at its meeting on June 10, 2015. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

This program supports the development of new educators through a post-baccalaureate program within the institution's School of Professional Studies. Individual students will be eligible for Colorado educator licensure in mathematics or science and will receive a Master's of Science degree (which is already approved and the institution is currently offering it) following completion of the program. Coursework is aligned to provide theoretical and practical training for Colorado secondary 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:** Incoming students in this course of study are required to possess an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to admission. Further, they must have passed the required standardized exam to demonstrate adequate academic content knowledge, and have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4 point scale). Students that do not meet these initial requirements (except for the previously awarded degree) can still obtain provisional admission with additional documentation and the support of CSU-Global faculty and administration.
2. **Ongoing screening and advising:** Students are provided an institutional advisor and are in regular contact with the program director to support their development and academic progress. Faculty members provide a tertiary level of advising support through their daily student interaction.
3. **Course work and field-based training:** The fieldwork component at CSU-Global consists of a year-long residency for teacher candidates. This extended timeframe allows the candidate the multiple opportunities to link pedagogical theory related to inclusive education, classroom management, student assessment, and exceptional student integration into their pre-service teaching. Oversight for the integration of these components is coordinated and supervised by CSU-Global faculty. Students must demonstrate proficiency in pedagogical integration prior to program completion.
4. **Candidate skills and content knowledge:** Students provide demonstrated content knowledge through the passage of required exams prior to entry to the program. Student's pedagogical and delivery skills are also assessed on a regular basis by student supervisors, cooperating educators and/or CSU-Global faculty.
5. **Continual improvement:** CSU-Global faculty will regularly review the progress of all students (including program completers) and modify curriculum, course sequencing and fieldwork experiences based on outcome-based data. CSU-Global will also continue to participate in external and internal review visits to ensure program quality and will incorporate best practices as determined by contemporary literature and research.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Science (8.17) and Mathematics (8.14) educator endorsement programs at Colorado State University-Global Campus.**

#### **V. 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.