

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAM IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a new degree program leading to the Master of Education with a major in Teaching and Learning in the College of Education, effective Fall 2016.

### **Background**

Eight discrete majors in the Master of Education program are being discontinued and consolidated under a new broad major of Teaching and Learning with concentrations in each of the eight areas. The change will unify the master's program with common goals and learning outcomes under the umbrella of "teaching and learning" while focusing on urban education.

Teachers entering the profession are inadequately prepared to meet the needs and the challenges in high-need urban areas, and many of them leave the profession in high numbers, at least partly because they are not prepared to meet the needs of a diverse student body. Academic preparation focused on issues specific to urban education are essential for teachers practicing in areas such as Detroit. As an urban university in the heart of a large metropolitan area, Wayne State University is in a position to take a leadership role in the area of urban education.

While some similar programs across the country focus on urban education, they either lack any content specific concentrations or have a limited number of concentrations. A strength of this proposal is the option for students to not only focus on urban education, but to do so within the context of a specific content area: Bilingual/Bicultural Education, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Foreign Language Education, Mathematics Education, Science Education, Social Studies Education and Special Education. A recommendation for the discontinuance of eight majors in the College of Education is being presented as a separate but related request for approval. Following Board of Governor approval, the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School will approve the concentrations for the new major.

### **Program Description**

The Master of Education program will help to prepare teaching professionals for leadership roles within their field in urban settings and help them to face the challenges of an ever-changing profession. The program engages teachers in the study of teaching and learning using current theoretical developments in order to analyze, revise, and adapt curriculum illustrating best teaching practices and develop research inquiries to examine teaching practice in a reflective manner. The theoretical knowledge and research skills acquired in this program are an important aspect of an educator's professional growth and essential to those interested in taking on leadership roles and/or pursuing other advanced degrees in the future. In addition, the program provides advanced content knowledge and pedagogy through various concentrations in discrete domains.

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

### **Admission Requirements**

Applicants must meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School (a minimum undergraduate degree GPA of 2.75 for regular admission and a GPA of 2.50 for qualified admission). In addition, prior coursework or a teaching endorsement in the field of study is required for admission to the following concentrations: Elementary Education, Foreign Language Education, Mathematics Education, Science Education, Social Studies Education, and Special Education.

### **Curriculum Requirements**

The Master of Education degree requires a minimum of thirty credits, at least twenty-four of which must be taken at Wayne State University. The program is offered under master's degree plan 'B,' which includes completion of a terminal seminar and essay or project.

The following courses are required of all students in the program (12 credit hours):

- TED 7000, Introductory Master's Seminar (Cr. 3)
- ED 7999, Terminal Master's Seminar and Essay or Project (Cr. 3)
- TED 7030, Foundations of Teaching and Learning (Cr. 3)
- TED 7060, Inclusive Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy (Cr. 3)

The remaining credit hours will come from the area of the concentration (18 to 24 credits). The total number of credit hours for the degree will vary from 30 to 36 depending on the area of the concentration.

### **Graduation Requirements**

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within six years of admission.

### **Program Administration**

The Assistant Dean of the Teacher Education Division will oversee an advisory committee comprised of representatives of the various concentration areas. This committee will meet on a regular basis to review course offerings, student enrollment, student success rates, and other aspects of the program.

### **Budget and Resource Requirements**

Because this new program is a consolidation of eight existing programs in the Teacher Education Division, no new faculty or resources are needed.

### **Accreditation**

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

Four of the eight concentration areas within this master's program (Bilingual/Bicultural Education, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Special Education) offer students the opportunity to receive a teaching endorsement. These teaching endorsements are already accredited by the State of Michigan as well as the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

### **Approvals**

This proposal was approved by the faculty of the Teacher Education Division, the College of Education Assembly, the Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.