

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

DISCONTINUANCE OF EDUCATION SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Education Specialist Certificate in Special Education effective Fall 2017.

Program Description

The Education Specialist Certificate (EdS) in Special Education was a program to strengthen the liberal education of PK-12 teachers so that they are more effective as professionals in the field of special education. In addition, students had the option of earning a special education endorsement to a valid Michigan teaching certificate in four academic concentrations: Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cognitive Impairment, Learning Disabilities, and Emotionally Impaired.

The Teacher Education Division in the College of Education has provided the administrative home for the EdS in Special Education. The EdS required 30 credits of coursework completed at the post-master's level. The certificate was typically completed in three years with a time limit of six years from admission.

Rationale

During the past three years, the faculty in Special Education have completed a program review and found that the EdS certificate curriculum is inadequately differentiated from curriculum requirements for the Master's degree. This would necessitate significant curriculum revisions requiring faculty resources that no longer exist. In fall 2016 faculty lines were not being replaced, leaving only two fulltime tenured faculty in the program. In addition, two of the four academic concentrations in the EdS in Special Education are under an admission moratorium: Autism Spectrum Disorders and Emotionally Impaired.

Accommodations for Current Students

Students currently in the program will be advised individually and allowed to complete the program within the time permitted in one of two ways: (1) Continuing with coursework identified in the original EdS in Special Education plan of work; or (2) transferring to the EdS in Curriculum and Instruction program while maintaining the courses required for the special education endorsement.

Approvals

The discontinuance of this certificate program has been approved by the faculty of the Teacher Education Division, the College of Education Assembly, the Office of the Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.