

Submitted by: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Master of Education in Reading in the College of Education, effective Fall term 2021.

Background

This program led to a State of Michigan teaching endorsement as a K-12 Reading Specialist. With changes in the state regarding reading instruction, Literacy Coaches are in demand and do not require the same preparation or credential as Reading Specialists. This shift in approach has resulted in the program's declining enrollment and the ending of our approval by the Michigan Department of Education for the Reading Specialist endorsement.

Enrollment in the program has declined. In 2012 there were 17 new students in the program. In 2019, that number dropped to two and then to one in 2020. Fifteen degrees were awarded over the last five years, down from 36 degrees awarded the prior five years. The numbers clearly show the program's decline and the need for closure.

There are four remaining students in the program, and they will complete the program by the end of the Spring/Summer 2022 semester. The completion date is based on the availability of the remaining courses needed by the four students and to prove the students the maximum amount of time (five years) take and pass the Reading Specialist state examination. We are permitted to recommend these candidates for the state credential through 2027.

As a replacement to this program and to address the need for Literacy Coaches in the State of Michigan, a new concentration in Literacy Instructional Coaching PK-8 has been proposed as an addition to the Master of Education in Teaching and Learning.

Program Description

This program services graduates of bachelor's degree programs in Elementary or Secondary Education who wish to develop and/or strengthen their expertise in literacy instruction in pre-primary through grade 12. This program provides a curriculum that qualifies certified teachers for the Michigan K-12 reading specialist endorsement by the State of Michigan. Graduates of this program are primarily prepared for the roles of classroom teacher of reading and reading specialist.

Approvals

The discontinuance of this program was approved by the faculty of the Teacher Education Division, Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School, and the Interim Provost.