

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE



23 January 2009

To: Steve Senger
Chair, Academic Planning Committee

✓ Joe Heim
Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Ruthann Benson
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Studies
Acting Chair, Department of Educational Studies

Ruthann Benson

The College of Liberal Studies, with the support of Provost/Vice-Chancellor Kathleen Enz Finken and School of Education Director Margaret Finders, would like to apply for approval to close the Department of Educational Studies (DES) graduate programs in Reading and ME-PD Professional Development Non-Certification due to the fact that they are not currently viable programs. Our intent will be to strengthen the DES graduate programs in Special Education and ME-PD Initial Certification and Learning Communities in order to ensure that we can fulfill all program requirements in compliance with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

The Programs

The Graduate Reading Program includes three concentrations. Approval of this request would close all three concentrations:

1. Concentration I meets the requirements for Wisconsin's DPI 316 Reading Teacher license.
2. Concentration II meets the requirements for Wisconsin's DPI 317 Reading Specialist license.
3. Concentration III is designed for classroom teachers uninterested in 316/317 licensure but desiring greater expertise in developing literacy skills.

The Master of Education - Professional Development offers three options. Approval of this request would close only the ME-PD Non-Certification option:

**Office of the Dean
College of Liberal Studies**

Departments and Programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Arts and Communication
School of Education

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: (608)785-8113, Fax: (608)785-8128

1. The ME-PD Non-Certification option is designed for graduate students who want to develop education-related competencies to meet career and personal goals.

The Rationale for the closing all of the graduate Reading tracks and the ME-PD Non-Certification track are as follows:

Enrollment in the three graduate reading options has been very low for a number of years. At the present time, there are no full-time tenured or tenure line faculty members in the Graduate Reading Program. All graduate classes are taught by ad hoc faculty except for Reading 781: Educational Supervision which has been taught by a tenured faculty member who does not hold a degree in Reading. This course is a practicum to provide practical application of theory and experience for students in an approved program. The DPI requires that faculty responsible for leadership or coordination of initial or advanced programs leading to licensure must hold a minimum of a master's degree or its equivalent in the discipline of the program. The DPI also requires that faculty who supervise practicum students shall have at least three years of experience in PK-12 settings or administrative settings appropriate to their assignment. The two new faculty members hired into the Reading area in 2008-2009 are needed to teach exclusively in the undergraduate program. We are not able to continue this program with our current resources and the lack of student enrollments makes it fiscally irresponsible to keep the program open.

The ME-PD Non-Certification option does not have clearly defined or articulated areas of concentrations. In this program, students must create an interdisciplinary program of study but the Department of Educational Studies has not collaborated with Departments across campus to offer coherent areas of concentration. Also because the audience for this program is small, many of the courses are offered only occasionally and are often cancelled due to low enrollments. Thus students are admitted into a program that cannot provide courses in a timely manner. Another issue is that this program is currently admitting international students who are interested in a focus on American Schools and Schooling. Some of these students do not have the background knowledge to be successful in courses currently offered, and the DES faculty has not created a sequence of courses to meet these needs. With the limited number of Department of Educational Studies faculty who work with graduate students, graduate students struggle to find faculty to direct their graduate culminating experiences.

Due to the tightening of the budget across UW-La Crosse, we plan to focus our efforts and resources on strengthening the undergraduate programs, the graduate initial certification, and the graduate special education programs.

The Plan for Students in the Admission Process

The possibility of closing these programs was discussed Fall 08 semester with the

Department of Educational Studies and the DES graduate program directors; Dr. V. J. Agarwal, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Chris Bakkum, Registrar, and Ms. Kathy Kiefer, Director of Admissions. It was also discussed informally with members of the DPI Approval Team when they came for the fall site-visit. During Fall semester a notice was put on the Graduate Reading and ME-PD web-sites that admission to these programs was “frozen” until further notice. There is no deadline for application into these programs; applications are processed as they are submitted. Very few students have applied for or indicated interest in admission to these programs up to this point in time. Kathy Kiefer, Director of Admissions, has reviewed the few formal applications that have been received and has made arrangements to refund any application fees or deposits paid. The graduate program directors have informed students who have inquired informally that admissions are “frozen” at this time and that the college intends to close these programs. Once approval to close these programs is officially secured from Academic Planning Committee and Faculty Senate, the information that the programs are being discontinued will be published on the web-sites and other appropriate venues.

The Plan for Students Currently in These Programs

The Dean of the College of Liberal Studies will be notifying students currently enrolled in these programs to tell them of the college’s intention to close the programs and our commitment to work with them on a plan for how they can complete their degree requirements in a timely manner. The Graduate Reading Program Director and the Interim ME-PD Director will contact all students in order to confirm their desire to complete the degree program at UW-L and to work with them on a plan of study whereby they can complete their coursework and degree requirements. Program Directors will establish and publish a schedule of when courses will be offered during the next approximately 1 ½-2 years and work with students on course substitutions as needed and appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I’m sure you will agree that closing these faltering graduate programs will result in stronger graduate and undergraduate programs in the Department of Educational Studies in the future. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Cc: Kathleen Enz-Finken, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
V. J. Agarwal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Margaret Finders, Associate Dean/Director of the School of Education
Chris Bakkum, Registrar
Kathryn Kiefer, Director of Admissions

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LX-138P R&R rev. 8/1/00

LX 138P - NEW OR REVISED MAJOR, MINOR, EMPHASIS, ETC.

1ST Reading _____
2ND Reading _____
Action _____
FFFUPD _____
SNAP _____
Dept./ARC _____
Catalog _____

NEW

CHANGE-check all changes

credits _____ required course
title _____ electives
 other (explain) Program Closure

SUBMIT 1 YELLOW SIGNED ORIGINAL AND 24 WHITE COPIES TO RECORDS AND REGISTRATION OFFICE, 117 GRAFF MAIN. DEADLINE IS THURSDAY MORNING PRIOR TO THE NEXT TUESDAY MEETING.

Program Title:
Graduate Reading Program

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM:

Undergraduate

- _____ Major
- _____ emphasis within major
- _____ Minor
- _____ emphasis within minor
- _____ emphasis (no major/minor)
- _____ Concentration
- _____ Core

Graduate

- _____ program
- _____ option within program

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ Semester/year

Applies to students in:
_____ all catalogs (retroactive)
_____ new catalog only

Program size: _____ Number of program credits

Program revision:
If this is an increase in credits, indicate if it will likely result in students graduating with more credits. Be prepared to discuss at curriculum meeting

New Undergraduate Program (majors/emphases only)
Extent of Majors policy limits majors to 40 credits unless required by external agencies, accreditation, etc. Justification for more than 40 credits, if applicable:

Other pertinent information:

Type description, as it should appear in the catalog. NOTE: indicate which college(s)/school(s) are eligible for program. Line through deletions and underline additions if a revision.

It is the intent of the College of Liberal Studies to close the Department of Educational Studies (DES) graduate programs in Reading (all 3 concentrations). Further admissions to these programs are currently "frozen" and we will be working with students enrolled in the programs to confirm their desire to complete the degree program at UW-L and to work with them on a plan of study whereby they can complete their coursework and degree requirements. Students will be given reasonable opportunity to successfully complete the requirements for their degrees.

Rationale: Enrollment in the three graduate reading options has been very low for a number of years. At the present time, there are no full-time tenured or tenure line faculty members in the Graduate Reading Program. The two new faculty members hired into the reading area in 2008-2009 have needed to teach exclusively in the undergraduate program and an additional faculty member is needed to support the undergraduate curriculum.

Due to the tightening of the budget across UW-La Crosse, we will focus our efforts on strengthening the undergraduate programs, the graduate initial certification, and the graduate special education programs.

Note: Dept. Chair and Dean's signatures certify qualified instructional staff; adequate student demand; adequate facilities; appropriate equipment & materials; consideration of exceptional course fees (above \$20); and approval of college/school curriculum committee, if applicable; and communication with other affected units.

APPROVALS: (Cross-listed courses require both/all department chair signatures.)

Department Chair(s)/Date: Ruthann Benson 1-29-09

Dean/College/Date: Ruthann Benson 1-29-09

Signed after curriculum committee approval:

Committee Chair/Date: _____

Provost/Vice Chancellor/Date: _____

Registrar/Date: _____

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LX 138P - NEW OR REVISED MAJOR, MINOR, EMPHASIS, ETC.

1ST Reading _____
2ND Reading _____
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DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM:

Undergraduate

_____ Major
_____ emphasis within major
_____ Minor
_____ emphasis within minor
_____ emphasis (no major/minor)
_____ Concentration
_____ Core

Graduate

_____ program
_____ option within program

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____
Semester/year

Applies to students in:
_____ all catalogs (retroactive)
_____ new catalog only

Program size: _____
Number of program credits

Program revision:
If this is an increase in credits, indicate if it will likely result in students graduating with more credits. Be prepared to discuss at curriculum meeting

New Undergraduate Program (majors/emphases only)
Extent of Majors policy limits majors to 40 credits unless required by external agencies, accreditation, etc. Justification for more than 40 credits, if applicable:

Other pertinent information:

Program Title:

Graduate Professional Development Non- Certification ME-PD Program

Type description, as it should appear in the catalog. NOTE: indicate which college(s)/school(s) are eligible for program. Line through deletions and underline additions if a revision.

The Master of Education - Professional Development offers three options:

1. ME-PD Learning Community is the CLS program that is jointly sponsored by CEE. Each Learning Community cohort, brings together 20-40 students who enroll together, work through the spiraled curriculum together and graduate together.
2. The ME-PD Non-Certification option is designed for graduate students who want to develop education-related competencies to meet career and personal goals.
3. The ME-PD Initial Certification option is for students possessing a baccalaureate degree who wish to obtain licensure to teach while simultaneously earning a master's degree.

It is the intent of the College of Liberal Studies to close the Department of Educational Studies (DES) graduate programs in ME-PD Professional Development non-certification program, option 2 above. Further admissions to this program are currently "frozen" and we will be working with students enrolled in the program to confirm their desire to complete the degree program at UW-L and to work with them on a plan of study whereby they can complete their coursework and degree requirements. Students will be given reasonable opportunity to successfully complete the requirements for their degrees.

Rationale: The ME-PD Professional Development Non-Certification option does not have clearly defined or articulated areas of concentrations. In this program, students must create an interdisciplinary program of study but coherent areas of concentration are not articulated. Also because the audience for this program is small, many of the courses are offered only occasionally and are often cancelled due to low enrollments. Thus students are admitted into a program that cannot provide courses in a timely manner. With the limited number of DES faculty who work with graduate students, graduate students struggle to find faculty to direct their graduate culminating experiences.

Due to the tightening of the budget across UW-La Crosse, the DES faculty will focus efforts on strengthening the undergraduate programs, the graduate initial certification, and the graduate special education programs.

Note: Dept. Chair and Dean's signatures certify qualified instructional staff; adequate student demand; adequate facilities; appropriate equipment & materials; consideration of exceptional course fees (above \$20); and approval of college/school curriculum committee, if applicable; and communication with other affected units.

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Department Chair(s)/Date: Ruthann Benson 1-29-09

Dean/College/Date: Ruthann Benson 1-29-09

Signed after curriculum committee approval:

Committee Chair/Date: _____

Provost/Vice Chancellor/Date: _____

Registrar/Date: _____