

Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act

Date posted: December 19, 2011

Institution: University of Phoenix

Current status: Authorized for the offering of degree programs both at its four Western Washington campuses as well as advertisement and recruitment for distance learning degree programs

Nature of request: Authorization to advertise and recruit for five additional distance learning programs

Proposed programs:

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Bachelor of Arts in English

Master of Arts in Education/Curriculum & Instruction – Reading
Education Specialist

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Washington sites where the programs will be offered:

Not applicable, distance learning only

Background:

University of Phoenix has operated in Washington State since 1996. It has been accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (NCA) since 1978. It currently offers programs in Washington State at locations in Bellevue, Tacoma, Tukwila and Lynnwood.

Nature of the review:

Prior to granting authorization to advertise and recruit for new degree programs in Washington State, the Higher Education Coordinating Board/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

The programs to be advertised by University of Phoenix appear to meet the requirements of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Information on the additional programs can be found at the end of this notice.

Timeline:

The HECB will accept comments on this application until January 3, 2012.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to: <mailto:DegreeAuthorization@hecb.wa.gov>.

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, the statute is RCW 28B.85 and the regulation is WAC 250-61. They can both be found at the following link: [Statutes and Regulations](#).

Program Title:

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Program Outcomes:

“The major in Environmental Science is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between scientific principles and the environment. Topics will include biological and ecological fundamentals, the environment and society, environmental management and law, global health, risk assessment, ethics, and technology.”

Number of Credits: 120 semester credits

Required Courses:

General Education Courses: (54 credits total)

Communication Arts.....	6
(must include COMM/215, equivalent or higher)	
Mathematic	9
(must include MTH/209 and STAT/167*, equivalent, or higher)	
Science and Technology	6
(must include at least three credits in physical or biological sciences)	
Humanities	6
Social Science	6

Additionally, students choose any elective courses within the general education area to complete the remaining 21 credits in general education.

Foundation Courses:

*The following courses are required (or an equivalent, or a more advanced course) and they may be applied either toward general education credits or electives

MTH/208	College Mathematics I	3
MTH/209	College Mathematics II.....	3
STAT/167	Statistics for Life Sciences.....	3
The following course may or may not be required, depending upon the transfer credits applied toward the program. If required, it may also be applied either as general education or elective credits.		
COMM/215	Essentials of College Writing	3

Core Courses: (45 credits)

GEN/200	Foundations for General Education and Professional Success	3
BIO/101	Principles of Biology	3
CHM/110	Introductory Chemistry	3
ENV/100	Principles of Environmental Science	3
GLG/220	Physical Geology	3
SCI/256	People, Science, and the Environment.....	3
BIO/280	Conservation Biology	3

Students choose one of the following four courses:

SCI/209	Oceanography	3
GEO/215	Geography.....	3
BIO/240	General Biology	3

ECO/272	Fundamentals of Economics	3
BIO/315	Ecology and Evolution.....	3
ENV/320	Environmental Law.....	3
SCI/362	Environmental Issues & Ethics.....	3
ECO/370	Environmental Economics	3
ENV/410	Environmental Toxicology	3
ENV/420	Environmental Risk Assessment.....	3
<u>Students choose one of the following five courses:</u>		
ENV/315	Global Change	3
ENV/310	Environmental Management.....	3
ENV/330	Global Environmental Health	3
ENV/430	Environmental Technology.....	3
ENV/431	Public Policy Analysis	3

Focused Study: (15 credits)

Students select 15 credits from the required course listing from *one* additional BS or BA degree program.

Electives: (6 credits)

Students may choose any elective courses.

Program Title:

Bachelor of Arts in English

Program Outcomes:

“The Bachelor of Arts degree with a language requirement and primary major in English is designed to provide students with substantive academic content in a liberal arts discipline of their choice. The program prepares students for teaching opportunities in elementary and secondary education after completion of additional methodology courses required for teacher certification in all states. The degree also provides an academic foundation for students interested in pursuing further graduate education necessary for postsecondary teaching positions in liberal arts at most colleges and universities. Focused studies are designed to provide an interdisciplinary component that will increase the student’s breadth of learning. The program will provide workers in business and government, as well as education, with learning that promotes critical thinking, information utilization, collaboration, communication, and analytical skills essential to effective and efficient work productivity.

The major in English is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of rhetoric, literature, and writing. Students will choose from topics in American and English literature, writing essentials, linguistics and poetry, literary masterpieces, and technical writing.”

Number of Credits: 120 semester credits

Required Courses:

General Education Courses: (60 credits total)

Communication Arts.....	6
(must include COMM/215, equivalent or higher)	
Mathematic	6
(must include MTH/209 and STAT/167*, equivalent, or higher)	
Science and Technology	6
(must include at least three credits in physical or biological sciences)	
Humanities	6
Social Science.....	6
Foreign Language	6
(NTP Foreign Language Exams may be used to satisfy foreign language requirements)	

Additionally, students choose any elective courses within the general education area to complete the remaining 24 credits in general education.

Foundation Courses:

*The following course is required (or an equivalent, or a more advanced course) and it may be applied either as general education credits or an elective

MTH/209 College Mathematics II.....	3
The following course may or may not be required, depending upon the transfer credits applied toward the program. If required, it may also be applied either as general education or elective credits.	
COMM/215 Essentials of College Writing	3

Core courses: (45 credits)

GEN/200 Foundations for General Education and Professional Success	3
ENG/125 Literature in Society.....	3
ENG/106 Survey of Literary Masterpieces	3
ENG/155 Mythology in Literature and Life.....	3
ENG/157 Multicultural Literature.....	3
ENG/215 Effective Academic Writing	3
COMM/251 Rhetoric and Critical Thinking.....	3

Students choose one of the following four courses:

HUM/150 Introduction to Film Studies.....	3
ENG/135 Essentials of Contemporary Communication.....	3
ENG/221 Technical Writing Fundamentals	3
ENG/290 Children’s Literature in a Pluralistic Society.....	3
ENG/301 American Ethnic Literature.....	3
ENG/306 Poetry and Society.....	3
ENG/340 Creative Writing.....	3
ENG/380 Applied Linguistics	3
ENG/491 American Literature to 1860	3
ENG/493 English Literature to 1800.....	3

Students choose one of the following eight courses:

COMM/301 Proposal Writing.....	3
ENG/302 20 th Century American Literature	3
ENG/304 Shakespeare.....	3
ENG/308 American Autobiography.....	3

ENG/492	American Literature since 1860	3
ENG/494	English Literature since 1800.....	3
ENG/495	Advanced Creative Writing.....	3
ENG/496	African American Literature	3

Focused Study: (15 credits)

Students select 15 credits from the required course listing from *one* additional BS or BA degree program. The focused study courses may come from clusters in areas such as: History; Communication; Literature; or Culture and Diversity.

Program Title:

Master of Arts in Education/Curriculum & Instruction – Reading

Program Outcomes:

“The Master of Arts program in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Reading is intended for P-12 teachers who would like to expand and deepen their theoretical knowledge, instructional expertise, and use of effective digital and print resources for diverse populations in the teaching and learning of reading and literacy. The International Reading Association standards and the College of Education’s Conceptual Framework form the foundation for the focus of this program, which is to support reading professionals in learning and teaching new, research-based methodologies and in becoming advocates for collaborative, positive change in literacy education in their school, their district, and the community.”

Number of Credits: 35 semester credits

Admission Requirement unique to this program:

Three years of post-high school work experience including 18 months of full-time teaching experience in a P-12 setting.

Required Courses:

RDG/501	Orientation to the Curriculum and Instruction Reading Program.....	0
COM/516	Professional Communications	1
CUR/506	Theories and Best Practices of Curriculum and Instruction	3
CUR/507	Social, Political, and Cultural Contexts of Schools	3
EDD/581	Action Research and Evaluation.....	4
CUR/510	Teachers as Leaders	3
RDG/504	Theoretical and Research Foundations of Language and Literacy.....	3
RDG/522	Reading and Writing Instructional Strategies for Elementary.....	3
	OR	
RDG/533	Reading and Writing Instructional Strategies for Adolescents	
RDG/523	Content Area Reading and Writing for Elementary	3
	OR	
RDG/534	Content Area Reading and Writing for Adolescents	
RDG/545	Culturally Responsive Reading Methods and Materials.....	3
RDG/555	Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading and Writing Difficulties	3
RDG/560	Reading Practicum*	6

*This is a supervised practicum. Students work with struggling readers at a public, charter or parochial school daily for six weeks. This program also includes 50 hours of field experience.

Program Title:

Educational Specialist

Program Outcomes:

“The Educational Specialist program (Ed.S.) will prepare learners to become transformational leaders who will strategically manage and lead complex educational organizations. Graduates will be educational practitioners who demonstrate analytical, critical, and innovative thinking to improve the performance of educational institutions. The Educational Specialist program degree is consistent with the University’s mission to develop the knowledge and skills that will enable learners to achieve their professional goals, improve the productivity of their organizations, and provide leadership and service to their communities. The program is designed to emphasize leadership and to focus on a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction.

Goals and Competencies:

With the Educational Specialist program, the University seeks to prepare learners to:

1. Establish professional and ethical relationships with stakeholders
 - Formulate strategies to communicate information to various stakeholders
 - Create/adapt and use processes to gather input from various stakeholders
 - Develop a framework for ethical behavior
 - Interpret and implement policy and legal standards
2. Interpret and integrate data and information
 - Act as critical consumers of research
 - Utilize research to evaluate and improve educational and organizational processes
 - Demonstrate data-driven decision making
 - Cultivate pursuit of praxis-based knowledge
3. Advance the development and transformation of education as a content specialist
 - Incorporate domain specific knowledge into the roles and responsibilities of the content specialist
 - Manage and lead program change through systemic review processes
4. Encourage lifelong learning with the field of education
 - Demonstrate reflective thinking through metacognitive discourse
 - Promote lifelong learning for members of the organization”

Number of Credits: 31 semester credits

Admission Requirements unique to this degree:

Current or record of past employment in an education or leadership position

Minimum of three years of professional experience in, and access to, an educational environment

Required Courses:

COM/705	Communication Strategies	1
EDD/721	Planning and Leading Change	3
EDD/722	The Legal Context of Education	3
EDD/723	Ethics and Values in Learning Organizations.....	3

EDD/731	The Economics of Education	3
EDD/733	Evaluation and Assessment Methods.....	3
CUR/712	Curriculum Theory.....	3
CUR/721	Curriculum Design.....	3
CUR/722	Instructional Models	3
CUR/731	Supervision of Curriculum and Instruction.....	3
EDS/799	Educational Specialist Capstone	3

Program Title:

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Program Outcomes:

“This program seeks to improve the delivery of quality health care by developing leaders as researchers, educators, and administrators within diverse global systems. Throughout the program, learners explore nursing through various lenses, with emphases on the ethical responsibilities in the field for developing strong communities and a knowledge-oriented workforce, and the role that collaboration and dialogue play in producing meaningful scholarship and effective leadership practice.

Program Mission

The mission of the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing program is to promote leadership within the nursing field through ethical, collaborative scholarship and practice in the global environment. This program is designed to foster learners who seek to improve health organizations in preparing for the future.”

Number of Credits: 62-74 semester credits

Admission Requirements unique to this program:

- Masters degree in nursing from an accredited institution
- Minimum of three years of full-time, post high-school experience within the past 10 years, one year of which must be as an RN.
- Current employment in a nursing or health care role or access to an appropriate health care organization environment in which to complete the work related course assignments.

Required Courses:

COM/705	Communication Strategies	1
SEM/700R	Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar	0
NUR/700	Professional Nursing Leadership	3
DOC/710R	Doctoral Studies Seminary and Workshop	3
NUR/701	Philosophy of Nursing Science	3
NUR/702	Theory Construction and Content Analysis	3
NUR/703	Theoretical Applications in Evidence-Based Practice	3
NSE/721	Theories of Nursing Education	3
RES/714	Quantitative Methods and Statistical Analyses.....	3
RES/715	Qualitative Methods.....	3
DHA/712	Risk Management in Complex Organizations	3
DHA/724	Globalization of Health Care	3

DOC/720	Proposal Seminar	3
DOC/721	Prospectus and Proposal Workshop.....	3
NSE/722	Instructional Design and Curriculum Development	3
RES/713	Statistics	3
DOC/730R	Professional Development and Socialization.....	3
NSE/723	Measurement and Evaluation.....	3
DHA/732	Evaluation of Health Care.....	3
EXAM/799	Comprehensive Examination	1
DOC/736a	Dissertation I.....	3
DOC/736b	Dissertation I (if necessary)	3
DOC/736c	Dissertation I (if necessary)	3
DOC/737	Dissertation II.....	3
DOC/738a	Defense	3
DOC/738b	Defense (if necessary).....	3
DOC/738c	Defense (if necessary).....	3
DOC/740R	Annual Renewal Residency	0