



January 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education Eastern Washington University Moderate Degree Change Proposal

Introduction

Eastern Washington University (EWU) seeks approval to convert its Bachelor of Arts in Education in Children's Studies (Early Childhood Education option) to a Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education degree beginning spring 2011. The program would serve 20 FTE students during its first year, increasing to full enrollment of 40 FTE during its fourth year.

Proposed Change Description and Rationale

The program would be moved from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Social Work to the Education Department in the College of Arts, Letters, and Education. The curriculum would change to a moderate extent. The number of courses (12) and quarter credits (45) would remain unchanged, with some curriculum updating and the replacement of two non-education courses with education courses. The target audience, admission requirements, learning objectives, delivery method, faculty, and facilities would not change.

Students currently pursuing the option would be able to choose between completing the option and changing to the new degree; however, with approval of the new program, no new students would be admitted to the option.

The revised curriculum would better prepare students to obtain early childhood education endorsements. In addition, the new degree title would be more recognizable to students and employers, helping EWU attract more students and helping graduates secure teaching positions.

External Review

The proposal was reviewed by Dr. Mary Barbara Trube, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education and Assistant Dean for Academic Engagement and Outreach, Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education and Human Services, Ohio University. She strongly supported the proposal and made no suggestions for modification.

Staff Analysis

The proposed conversion meets the criteria for a Moderate Degree Change. The revised curriculum would improve students' ability to obtain early childhood education endorsements, enhancing EWU's ability to prepare educators for the 21st century and thereby supporting the state's *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*.

Furthermore, the new degree title would benefit both students and employers by clearly communicating the academic focus of the course of study. Finally, the proposed conversion would benefit the community by enhancing EWU's ability to recruit high-caliber students and respond to state Department of Early Learning initiatives.

Staff Recommendation

After careful review of the proposal and supporting materials, HECB staff recommend approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education at Eastern Washington University at Eastern Washington University in Cheney and Spokane. The Board's Education Committee discussed the proposal during its January 11, 2010 meeting and recommended approval by the full Board.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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RESOLUTION NO. 11-02

WHEREAS, Eastern Washington University proposes to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education; and

WHEREAS, The degree would result from the conversion of a Bachelor of Arts in Education in Children's Studies (Early Childhood Education option) into a Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education; and

WHEREAS, The conversion would benefit students and employers by clearly indicating the program's academic focus; and

WHEREAS, The conversion would benefit the community by enhancing Eastern Washington University's ability to recruit high-caliber students and respond to state Department of Early Learning initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The conversion would support the *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education* by enhancing Eastern Washington University's ability to prepare educators for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The conversion is a moderate degree change; and

WHEREAS, The program would be offered in Cheney and Spokane;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education, effective January 27, 2011.

Adopted:

January 27, 2011

Attest:


Ethelda Burke, Chair


Earl Hale, Vice Chair