BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY
Early Childhood Generalist (grades 4-5)

RECOMMENDATION

This continuing endorsement program meets the Chancellor's requirements for academic programs and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for an Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement. Approval is recommended for a three-year period, until 2013. In addition, it should be noted that the program is subject to periodic review by the Chancellor to ensure that the standards for Ohio licensure continue to be met.

Request: Wittenberg University requests approval for a post-baccalaureate program of study leading to an Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement (grades 4-5).

Accreditation/Authorization: The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution. Wittenberg University is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2017.

Background: Wittenberg University is a four-year, private liberal arts university founded in 1845 and affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Located in Springfield Ohio, the University has an enrollment of approximately 1950 students. Wittenberg attracts and admits academically strong students with approximately 65% of the entering students graduating in the top fifth of their high school classes. The university provides a strong liberal arts curriculum. Wittenberg University offers undergraduate programs leading to early childhood, middle childhood and intervention specialist licenses.

The Early Childhood Generalist endorsement is valid for teaching all core academic content areas in grades four and five. The endorsement may be added to an Early Childhood P-3 teaching license upon evidence of completion of a minimum of nine additional semester hours of study aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards for grades four and five and including preparation in pedagogy and child/adolescent development. Wittenberg University's program is aligned with these standards and exceeds the number of required credit hours. Wittenberg University's program is a post-baccalaureate program that builds on the knowledge and skills that students typically master during any early childhood preparation program, including child and adolescent development.

Curriculum: The proposed Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement (Grades 4-5) will provide an opportunity for licensed teachers to build upon their early childhood education knowledge, skills, and dispositions to serve students in Grades 4-5. An additional (above the Early Childhood (P-3) Licensure Program) ten (10) semester hours, will be required to gain this endorsement. These 10 semester hours will be focused on study aligned with the Ohio academic content standards for grades four and five, including preparation in pedagogy and field experience for these grades.

Recommendation: This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for an Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement for grades 4 and 5. There were no major concerns identified in the review and approval is recommended for a three-year period, until 2013. In addition, it should be noted that the program is subject to periodic review by the Chancellor to ensure that the standards for Ohio licensure continue to be met.

End of Comment Period: May 30, 2010
No comments received, recommend conditional approval

APPROVED	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	8/5/10 Date

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