

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

Recommendations:

This program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for new graduate degree programs and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study recently voted unanimous approval for the new degree program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: Shawnee State University's Department of Teacher Education requests approval of the proposed new Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction degree program.

Program Mission and Background: The proposed M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction will be the first graduate-level program in education to be offered by the university. The goals of the proposed program are to provide teachers with the increased knowledge, skills, experiences, and dispositions that will help them to enhance learning in their classrooms and to become leaders for improvement within their schools. The proposed program will provide the opportunity for graduate-level education to teachers in the south central Ohio region to meet their professional development needs.

Ohio teachers are required to earn a master's degree or equivalent credit hours by the time of their second professional licensure renewal. Without this, they cannot continue their employment. The proposed Shawnee State University M.Ed. degree will help teachers meet the graduate-level education requirement, while also providing a foundation for those who complete the program to have a direct, positive impact on student learning in southern Ohio schools.

Enrollments: Projected full time enrollment in the proposed program is 30 students in year 1 and 60 students in each of the following years. The program will also be open to part-time students, so full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment will be slightly higher.

Curriculum: Students entering the proposed program will have baccalaureate degrees from accredited institutions and have a teaching license or equivalency, in a specialized teaching field. Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75, must demonstrate appropriate writing skills through an in-house writing sample, and must provide two current letters of recommendation from educational or professional sources. The 33 semester hour program is offered through evening, weekend and summer classes, using a blend of traditional and technological delivery approaches. The curriculum will offer students advanced level courses in a graduate education core (15 credits) and in curriculum and instruction (15 credits). The graduate education core provides courses and experiences in cognitive and motivational theories, instructional technology, the philosophy of education, professional ethics, educational data analysis and educational research. Students will culminate their educational program with a capstone experience (3 credits) in which they complete an applied educational research project or participate in a process to become Nationally Board Certified.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: Shawnee State University has an experienced and qualified faculty sufficient to sustain its Graduate Center. The Department of Teacher Education is an active department with many members presenting at conferences, authoring papers, participating in workshops and collaborating with other schools and institutions to advance Shawnee State University's educational mission. All tenure track faculty members within the Department of Teacher Education hold the terminal degree. In Year 1 of the proposed program, one new faculty member will be hired, with additional faculty members hired in Year 2. Facilities for the proposed program are largely in place. The M.Ed. program will primarily be an evening and weekend program, offered during times when there is little demand for existing classroom and laboratory space. Space for additional faculty members is available on campus. Some minor renovation will be needed to house the proposed program. Shawnee State University's Clark Memorial Library (CML) is a solid academic library created to support undergraduate education for students in Southern Ohio and beyond. With modest enhancements, the CML will build upon existing facilities, technology, staffing, collection and services to support the increased research needs of graduate students. Revenue for the proposed program will come primarily from two sources—student tuition and state subsidy. Additional funds will be sought through grants and gifts to the Shawnee State University Development Foundation. The initial planning and start-up costs for the implementation of graduate programs at Shawnee State University is being supported from the institution's general budget and reserve funds.

Evidence of Need: Survey assessments of administrators and teachers were conducted in a 26 school-district-area in the southern region of Ohio. Each school district was within an hour's drive of the Portsmouth campus. The survey of administrators indicated that 45% (1,213) of teachers in the area do not have master's degrees. Fifty-six percent of the 663 individuals who responded to the teacher survey indicated an interest in a proposed master's program in education at Shawnee State. Many of these teachers would have much longer drives in order to obtain graduate degrees from either of the two other state institutions in Southern Ohio, Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati. The findings also indicated that more teachers received master's degrees through online/correspondence programs from out-of-state institutions than from state institutions. While these online/correspondence programs may be of high quality, there remains a concern as to whether the content of these programs meets the expectations held by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Legislature when the second license renewal requirement of a master's degree or its equivalent was established. Out-of-state programs would not offer the same level of understanding of Ohio teacher standards and academic content standards that can be offered by an NCATE-accredited program in an Ohio institution. Shawnee State University provides a viable option for teachers who are looking for quality, graduate-level education within a reasonable

driving distance from their homes. The proposed M.Ed. will offer students a program that emphasizes critical thinking and analysis skills and research-based best practices, while also emphasizing Ohio standards and academic content standards. In addition, the capstone option for completing National Board Certification allows Shawnee State University to prepare master's level teachers who can become leaders within their school districts.

End of Comment Period: July 23, 2009
No Comments Received: Recommend Approval

Approved		7/27/09
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor		Date

mlc