

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### OHIO 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. There were no major concerns identified in the review. Approval is recommended for a three-year period, until 2013.

**Request:** Ohio University requests continued approval for an Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement (grades 4-5).

**Accreditation/Authorization:** The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution. Ohio University is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2016. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits Ohio University's educator preparation programs at the initial and advanced levels. Ohio University's NCATE accreditation is current; NCATE recently completed a review of the institution's programs.

**Background:** 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. Ohio University's program is aligned with these standards and was originally approved by the Ohio Department of Education in 2009.

**Curriculum:** Ohio University reviewed its approved endorsement curriculum and revised the program to 14-quarter hours of courses in the teaching of reading, social studies, mathematics and science for students in grades four and five. The program, as originally submitted, was 18-quarter credit hours and included required field experience. The redesigned program is now similar to other programs at Ohio institutions and will be more competitive and attractive to students. The program is offered online. The 14 credit hour structure integrates content with pedagogy appropriate for teaching students in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The program also focuses on an understanding of child and adolescent development. Ohio University is shifting to semesters in fall 2012; the program is equivalent to 9.38 semester hours and meets the minimum requirements for the endorsement.

**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.