

## BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

### ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

#### Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement (K-12)

This degree program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a program of study leading to the Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement (K-12). There were no major concerns identified in the review. Continued approval is recommended for a three -year period of time, until 2014. In addition, it should be noted that the program is subject to periodic review by the Chancellor to ensure that the standards for Ohio endorsements and licenses continue to be met.

**Profile:** Ashland University is a private, non-profit institution located in Ashland, Ohio with satellite locations in Columbus and Elyria. Ashland University has more than 2200 undergraduate students and 3800 graduate students pursuing study at the associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral level.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits Ashland University's educator preparation programs at the initial and advanced level until the next review in 2016. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution until its next scheduled review in 2018.

**Request:** Ashland University requests continued approval for the graduate-level Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement (K-12).

**Background:** The Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement program prepares teachers to address the special needs of gifted and talented students. Teachers work in K-12 settings as intervention specialists, helping students identified as "gifted" achieve their full potential through specially designed curriculum and counseling.

Ashland University offers the Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement as a stand-alone program or as part of its Master of Education (M.Ed) in Curriculum and Instruction: Talent Development Education. The program provides a theoretical background on the nature and needs of gifted and talented students through a 20 semester-hour program, including a 5 credit hour practicum. The endorsement can be added to an existing teacher license, K-12. The program meets Ohio standards and a modified combination of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) standards and the standards of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

**Recommendation:** This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a program of study leading to the Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement (K-12). There were no major concerns identified in the review. Continued approval is recommended for a three -year period of time, until 2014. In addition, it should be noted that the program is subject to periodic review by the Chancellor to ensure that the standards for Ohio endorsements and licenses continue to be met