

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

UNIVERSITY OF RIO GRANDE

Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement (grades 4-5)

RECOMMENDATION

This 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 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 licensure continue to be met.

Request: University of Rio Grande requests approval for a 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. University of Rio Grande is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2018. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits the University of Rio Grande's educator preparation programs until the next review in 2012.

Background: The University of Rio Grande is a private liberal arts university founded in 1876 with a specific mission of meeting the educational needs of southern Ohio and providing highly personalized attention to students. In 1974, the Rio Grande Community College was created and publicly funded. This is the only public/private institutional arrangement in Ohio. It provides an opportunity to mitigate the cost of achieving a baccalaureate degree through the delivery of early college courses as well as relevant associate degree programs at a public tuition rate. Located in Rio Grande, the University has an enrollment of nearly 2000 undergraduate students and approximately a 100 students in graduate programs. The University of Rio Grande has two graduate programs, including the Master of Education in Classroom Teaching and Educational Leadership. The University of Rio Grande is approved to offer a range of licensure programs, including early and middle childhood programs, adolescent to young adult programs, multi-age intervention specialist programs and others.

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. The University of Rio Grande's program is aligned with these standards.

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. Nine semester credit hours will be required to gain this endorsement including pedagogy courses and additional content courses

appropriate to the grade levels.

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 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 licensure continue to be met.