

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Early Childhood Education Technology (ECET), Associate Degree, Salem and Tuscarawas Program leading to Licensure

RECOMMENDATION

This continuing program meets the Chancellor's requirements for academic degree programs and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for an Associate Pre-Kindergarten license (birth to kindergarten). There were minor concerns identified in the review and areas for improvement were identified. Continued approval is recommended for three years, until the next scheduled review in 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.

Profile: Kent State University was founded as a public teacher-training institution in 1910 and now serves more than 18,000 undergraduate students and nearly 5000 graduate students through an array of associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees. Kent State University is located in northeastern Ohio, with seven regional campuses located in various locations throughout the northeastern Ohio region. The Salem campus is located in Salem, Ohio and has more than 1000 students enrolled in a variety of certificate programs, 11 associate degree programs and 9 baccalaureate degrees. The Tuscarawas campus is located in New Philadelphia, Ohio and has more than 2000 students in 19 associate degree programs and 8 baccalaureate degree programs. Students at both regional campuses can also complete significant general education coursework toward all Kent State University baccalaureate degrees.

Accreditation/Authorization: The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution. Kent State University is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2015.

Request: Kent State University (KSU) requests continued approval for the Early Childhood Education Technology (ECET) associate degree leading to the Pre-Kindergarten Associate License.

Background: Kent State University is currently approved by the State Department of Education to provide teacher preparation programs leading to licensure in the following areas: early childhood education, middle childhood education, adolescent and young adult education (major subject areas), intervention specialist (mild/moderate and deaf), library/media education, multi-age areas (e.g. art, health, foreign language, physical education) and career-technical teacher education (including family and consumer science). KSU also offers programs leading to licensure for educational personnel (principal, school counselor, school psychologist, superintendent, educational administrative specialist in various areas, audiologist, speech-language pathologist) and several endorsements. Kent State University has both undergraduate and graduate degrees leading to initial licensure. KSU is submitting its request to ensure

alignment of the current program with national standards and Ohio standards and requirements.

The Associate Pre-Kindergarten License is valid for assisting families and communities in the overall development of children birth through preschool. Kent State University requires 68 semester hours of required coursework. After completion of the associate degree, students are able to transfer with no loss of credit to the bachelor's degree in early childhood offered by the Kent, Salem and Tuscarawas campuses.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a program leading to the associate Pre-Kindergarten license. There were minor concerns identified in the review and areas for improvement were identified. Continued approval is recommended for three years, until the next scheduled review in 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.