

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY Early Childhood Education (PK-3)

#### RECOMMENDATION

This licensure program meets the Chancellor's requirements for academic programs and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for the Early Childhood Education License (PK – 3). Approval is recommended for Wittenberg University until the next professional accreditation review. 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:** Wittenberg University requests approval for an undergraduate program of study leading to an Early Childhood Education (PK-3) license.

**Profile:** Wittenberg University is a four-year, private liberal arts university founded in 1845 and affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Located in Springfield Ohio, the University has an enrollment of approximately 1950 students. Wittenberg attracts and admits academically strong students with approximately 65% of the entering students graduating in the top fifth of their high school classes. The university provides a strong liberal arts curriculum.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution. Wittenberg University is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2017. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits Wittenberg University's educator preparation programs at the initial and advanced level until its next review in 2015.

**Background:** Wittenberg University's program is aligned with Ohio's standards and the standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Wittenberg's program is an undergraduate program with intensive study in education. Students also complete a broad base of liberal arts requirements and electives to culminate in a 130 semester hour degree that provides the knowledge and skills required for the early childhood education license, including the required 12 semester hour reading core.

**Recommendation:** This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for the Early Childhood Education (PK-3) license. Approval is recommended for Wittenberg University until its next professional accreditation review. 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.