



October 25, 2019

Mr. Robert L. "Bob" Caslen, Jr.
President
University of South Carolina - Columbia
Osborne Administration Building, Suite 206
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Mr. Caslen:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

Significant Program Length Change

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Elementary Education

Submission date:

6/28/2019

Implementation date:

6/1/2020

Case ID:

SC006743

The number of credit hours in the existing Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Elementary Education degree program will be reduced from 51 credit hours to 33 credit hours, effective summer 2020. A review of courses in the current program revealed overlap in content across several courses and also revealed that five institutions across the state offer similar degrees with fewer required hours. Further, data was provided demonstrating that of 35 prospective candidates for the program who did not apply, 20 indicated that the high number of credit hours in the program was a significant deterrent. In order to address these issues and address the critical demand for teachers in the state, elementary education faculty members proposed deleting courses with content overlap. Appropriate approvals were secured.

Reduction in credit hours does not diminish the quality of the degree and makes it more affordable for students to obtain in less time. The program will retain all requirements for a state-approved program in South Carolina including a minimum of 60 full school days in full-time clinical experience and 75 hours of practicum hours prior to full-time clinical experience. The program will retain its unique focus on methods courses embedded in the elementary school setting.

A chart was provided containing an explanation of the credit hours that will be removed from the program and how the content of the courses will be covered in remaining courses. Three courses (EDTE 600, EDFI 749, EDEL 791) and 6 hours of electives are being removed from the program. The final internship course is being reduced to 9 credit hours. All other courses in the program remain unchanged. Course content for EDTE 600 is covered in EDEL 701. Course content for EDFI 749 is covered in EDEL 701. Course content for EDEL 791 is covered in EDEL 790 and through the feedback from supervisors and coaching teachers as a part of their student teaching experience.



Mr. Robert L. "Bob" Caslen, Jr.
October 25, 2019
Page 2

The proposed changes will not affect the accreditation with the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). The modified program contains all of the courses associated with ACEI standards. Learning outcomes are retained as are the evaluation tools used to assess the standards. A table was provided describing evidence of the assessments used and when the assessments are administered.

A curriculum overview, proposed schedule of courses, and course descriptions were provided. Admission requirements were described. There will be no changes to faculty or staff or reassignment due to the reduction in credits. The elementary education faculty members also teach in the B.A. in Elementary Education and the online degree program. Existing library resources will remain the same as will student support services all of which were listed and described.

No new costs are associated with the reduction in credit hours for the program and physical facilities, which appear adequate, remain the same.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the change in program length for the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program in Elementary Education. It was the decision of the Board to approve the change and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover at 404-679-4501 or via email at lthomas-glover@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/ABC:lp

cc: Mr. Douglas D. Miles, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation
Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover