



MEMORANDUM

October 10, 2011

TO: R. E. LeMon, Associate Vice Chancellor
Academic and Student Affairs, SUS-BOG

FROM: Chula King, Provost *Chula King*

SUBJECT: Requests to Exceed 120 Credit Hours to Degree:
(a) **Exceptional Student Education (CIP 13.1001), Specialization -
Exceptional Student/Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading**
(b) **Elementary Education (CIP 13.1202), Specialization –
Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading**

During the review process pursuant to the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) visits, it was discovered that the necessary approvals for credits-to-degree in excess of 120 semester hours for the Exceptional Student/Elementary Education/ ESOL/Reading Specialization and the Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading Specialization had not been obtained from the Board of Trustees or the Board of Governors.

At its June 7, 2011, meeting the University of West Florida, Board of Trustees approved Requests to Exceed 120 Credit Hours to Degree in the following specializations:

(a) **Exceptional Student Education (CIP 13.1001), Specialization – Exceptional Student/Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading**

As currently configured and approved by the Florida Department of Education, this specialization requires completion of 36 semester hours of General Studies, 9 semester hours of Statewide Common Prerequisites, 6 semester hours of coursework with an international or diversity focus, 9 semester hours of course work to fulfill state lower level course requirements and 72 semester hours of coursework in the major field of study including student teaching. A total of 132 semester hours is required for the degree. The Exceptional Student Education/ESOL/Reading Specialization prepares students not only for the exceptional student classroom, but also for the elementary classroom.

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Following an intensive review of the required coursework along with DOE and NCATE requirements, the faculty determined that it is not possible to reduce the course requirements and still produce a highly-qualified graduate. In addition, graduates from this program will help fill a critical need Area of Programmatic Strategic Emphasis as defined by the Board of Governors.

This request does not affect the Exceptional Student Education – Educational Studies Specialization which requires 120 semester hours. This specialization, however, is not DOE approved and does not lead to teacher certification in the State of Florida.

(b) Elementary Education (CIP 13.1202), Specialization – Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading

As currently configured and approved by the Florida Department of Education, this specialization requires completion of 36 semester hours of General Studies, 9 semester hours of Statewide Common Prerequisites, 6 semester hours of coursework with an international or diversity focus, 9 semester hours of course work to fulfill state lower level course requirements and 68 semester hours of coursework in the major field of study including student teaching. A total of 128 semester hours is required for the degree.

Following an intensive review of the required coursework along with DOE and NCATE requirements, the faculty determined that it was not possible to reduce the course requirements while still producing a high qualified graduate.

This request does not affect the Elementary Education – Educational Studies Specialization which requires 120 semester hours. This specialization, however, is not DOE approved and does not lead to teacher certification in the State of Florida.

The supporting documents are attached for each request. Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Attachments (6):

1. Exceptional Student/Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading – BOT Action Item
2. Exceptional Student/Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading – Common Prerequisites Manual for CIP 13.1001
3. Exceptional Student/Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading –2011-2012 UWF Curriculum Change Request (CCR) 08083M
4. Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading – BOT Action Item

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5. Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading – Common Prerequisites Manual for CIP 13.1202
6. Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading – 2011-2012 UWF Curriculum Change Request (CCR) 08023F

cc: Richard Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs, SUS-BOG
Judith Bense, President, UWF
Robert 'Bob' Jones, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Academic and Student Affairs
Committee, UWF
George Ellenberg, Vice Provost, UWF
Susan McKinnon, Associate Vice President, UWF
Pamela Northrup, Interim Dean, College of Professional Studies, UWF
William 'Bill' Evans, Director, School of Education, UWF