

PROPOSAL: Major in Elementary Education

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of a new major in Elementary Education to be offered by the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies in the College of Education and Human Development. This new major has been created in response to changes in the elementary teacher certification requirements that are being implemented by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). WMU's existing elementary program leads to certification that enables graduates to teach all subjects in grades K-5, plus all subjects in grades 6-8 as long as they are teaching in a self-contained classroom. In addition, teachers holding an elementary certificate may earn core subject area endorsements that will allow them to teach in middle schools (grades 6-8). The new MDE certification rules require teachers to obtain separate certificates to teach in grades B-K, PK-3, 3-6, 5-9, or 7-12. At WMU, faculty in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies (TLES) determined that we would offer elementary certification in just two of the new grade bands at this time: PK-3 and 3-6. We are not addressing the 5-9 grade band at this time because these grades will already be covered through the combination of the new elementary major (PK-6) and our already-existing program in secondary education (6- 12). Also, the new 5-9 grade band standards are still under development and not available for application yet.

Recommended Action

Approve the creation of the Major in Elementary Education.