PROPOSAL: Graduate Certificate in Secondary Education Initial Teacher Certification

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Graduate Certificate in Secondary Education Initial Teacher Certification. Currently, all majors for the secondary education program are housed in the College of Arts and Sciences with the degree being housed in the College of Education and Human Development. Due to low enrollments of secondary education students throughout all content areas, the College of Arts and Sciences will no longer be able to financially justify running all disciplines of the secondary education program. Therefore, this new graduate certificate program has been mutually crafted between the two colleges.

Since the College of Education and Human Development does not have the capacity to run both an undergraduate and graduate teacher certification program, this proposal for a graduate certificate program is being submitted. Teacher candidates will enter into the program with an undergraduate degree in a teachable content area such as mathematics or English. Over 14 months, students will complete 30 – 35 credit hours of educational coursework depending on whether a methods course is required in their chosen content area. The program also includes a full-year teaching internship. Graduates are likely to have higher pass rates on the Michigan Teacher Test for Certification (MTTC) due to the fact that they have a degree in the teachable content area and graduate work in the area of education. This proposal provides students from outside of Western Michigan University with a pathway to enter the program, creating an opportunity for increased enrollment.

Recommended Action

Create the Graduate Certificate in Secondary Education Initial Teacher Certification.