

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Consent Item:

Northern Kentucky University Program Approval: Health Education and Physical Education Programs, Initial Graduate

Staff Recommendation:

The proposed educator preparation programs follow the regulatory requirements for program approval as established by the EPSB.

Rationale:

The submitted Northern Kentucky University programs have demonstrated compliance with the EPSB regulations and meet the requirements for program approval as established by the EPSB.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve the educator preparation programs submitted by Northern Kentucky University?

Applicable Statutes and Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, 16 KAR 2:010, 16 KAR 5:010, 16 KAR 5:020, 16 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.028 and KRS 161.030 require the EPSB to establish curricula for educator preparation programs in Kentucky and approve such programs for Educator Preparation Providers. The Educator Preparation Branch, the Content Area Program Review Committee, and the Program Review Committee evaluated the program review documents submitted for approval against performance-based program certification guidelines established by the EPSB.

Summary: Northern Kentucky University is requesting to add the certification areas of Physical Education and Health Education to the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program that is already approved by the EPSB. The MAT program is the Initial Graduate Program for potential candidates who are interested in becoming teachers. The MAT program is available to those who earned a baccalaureate degree in a teaching content area but did not earn teacher certification as an undergraduate student. The MAT program allows candidates to enroll via the traditional route (student teaching/ clinical experience) or the Option 6 route (teaching while completing the program). The MAT program is now delivered in an online format, meaning that most of the courses are online; however, the field experiences are in person at area schools. Adding Physical Education and Health Education certification to the MAT program (traditional and Option 6) will allow people who have Physical Education and/or Health Education content to become teachers in these areas, which are now recognized as teacher shortage areas in Kentucky.

Physical Education and Health Education are now teacher shortage areas in the Northern Kentucky region, including Greater Cincinnati and Eastern Indiana. Each year, Northern Kentucky University receives many requests from area principals asking for names and

recommendations of recently certified Physical Education and Health Education teachers. Unfortunately, the university is not able to currently meet the need, as they are only graduating 2-3 candidates each year in the undergraduate Physical Education and Health Education program. Northern Kentucky University offers a non-certification undergraduate program that graduates about 5 students a year and they will be perfect candidates for the MAT traditional and Option 6 programs. These candidates have completed the Physical Education and Health Education content and will be able to meet the admissions requirements of the MAT program. In addition, there are several Exercise Science alumni who have expressed interest in earning their teaching certification. They will also be excellent candidates for the MAT traditional and Option 6 programs. Adding Physical Education and Health Education certification to the MAT program will help to provide certified teachers in the Northern Kentucky region.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

OELE staff, Content Review Committee specialists, and the Program Review Committee have reviewed this program proposal and determined that the program meets the requirements for approval. The programs have completed the multi-tiered review process and received a recommendation for approval from the Program Review Committee per 16 KAR 5:010.

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