

## Proposed Changes to Elementary Professional Education Requirements

### Rationale - Addition of Minor

REPA requires that each Elementary Education major must include a minor in either a content area or a licensure area approved by the state (e.g., computer education, ENL, special education). A review of various minors offered throughout the university, as well as a review of license additions, demonstrates that a minimum of 15-18 credit hours are needed to offer a viable minor. Thus, in order to include the minor requirement in the elementary program, modifications to the Professional Education requirements are needed.

### Professional Education and Pedagogy

The latest REPA guidelines outline the state's definition of "professional education and pedagogy." Each of these areas must be included in our program in order for it to receive state approval. Below is a table that outlines the state definition with corresponding courses currently offered in our program.

<b>State Area</b>	<b>SOE Courses</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Reading Instruction	EDUC-E340 EDUC-E341 EDUC-X460 (or L390)	9
Differentiation of Instruction and Teaching Methods	EDUC-F200 EDUC-M323 EDUC-M333 HPER-P290 EDUC-E339 EDUC-E328 EDUC-E343 EDUC-E325	21
Cultural Competency	EDUC-E300 EDUC-H205 (or H340)	6
Instructional Technology	EDUC-W200	3
Classroom and Behavioral Management and Legal Issues	Included in methods EDUC-E310	3
Curriculum Development and Assessment	Included in methods	
Child Development	EDUC-P248 EDUC-P251 EDUC-M101	7
Exceptional Needs Students	EDUC-K305	3
Practice/Experience	EDUC-M301 EDUC-M201 EDUC-M401 EDUC-M420 EDUC-M425	22
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>74</b>

## Content Requirements

Our program currently requires 45 hours of content courses across five content areas (language arts, fine arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) plus two required courses (English composition and mathematical modeling). These courses also serve to meet the majority of common curriculum requirements that will be enacted in Fall of 2011. Let us assume that we **do not** want to decrease the content requirements for our program.

## Hours Needed to Reduce (Minimum)

<u>Program Area</u>	<u>Current Hours Required</u>	<u>Proposed Hours Required</u>
Content	45	45
Minor	9-10	15-18
Professional Ed	74	68
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>128-129</b>	<b>128+</b>

If we can reduce required credits in professional education by 6 credits, this would provide flexibility to offer at the minimum of a 15 credit hour minor minors of 15-18 credits depending on the requirements of the specific minor. After lengthy discussion, the Elementary Council recommends the following modifications to the professional education requirements:

1. Elimination of EDUC-F 200 (Examining Self as Teacher) as a requirement for elementary education. Representatives of Counseling and Educational Psychology stated that they could incorporate much of the content of F200 into existing coursework and field experiences (i.e., P248, P251, M101). They would continue to offer F200 as a course for non-majors interested in education.
2. Reduce the number of credit hours required in the elementary program that focus on language arts and reading (currently E339, E340, E341, X460/L390, M301, and a portion of M401) by 3 credit hours. LCLE representatives stated that they would be able to reconfigure their course offerings and continue to provide the necessary content in language arts and reading instruction. However, they have requested additional time to determine exactly how/where they will reduce the number of credit hours. It has been agreed that a team of representing LCLE and other elementary cluster/field experience faculty will meet to determine the most appropriate method for the 3-hour reduction.

With these two modifications, we have decreased the number of professional education credit hours so that a 15-hour minor can be included.