

COTE 07-05

College of Education and Professional Studies

COVER SHEET FOR CURRICULAR CHANGE REQUEST

DATE: 9/4/07
DEPARTMENT: Educational Administration
X **Graduate Program**
Fall 2008 Effective Date
ITEM TO CHANGE: Admission Requirements

Reason for Request:

In March of 2005, Arthur Levine published *Educating School Leaders* in which he outlined a nine-point template for evaluating the quality of a school leadership programs. In response to Levine's report, the Illinois Board of Higher Education formed a commission to consider and evaluate the findings of not only Levine's report, but a number of other national studies that looked at the quality of school leaders and student achievement as well as the quality of training provided to school leaders here in Illinois. In August of 2006, the Commission on School Leader Preparation in Illinois Colleges and Universities published its report to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In this report, *School Leader Preparation: A Blueprint for Change*, the Commission made 25 recommendations focused on the preparation school leaders.

The fifth point in Levine's template focused on admission standards. He recommended that the criteria for admissions be designed "to recruit students with the capacity and motivation to become successful school leaders" (p. 13). One of the three goals developed by the Commission on School Leader Preparation in Illinois Colleges and Universities was to "restructure admission criteria and recruit high quality principals" (p.8). Specifically, "Inadequate admission standards and students' self-selection often do not produce the committed, high quality leaders needed in our schools-especially in our hard-to-staff schools. School leader preparation programs need to reshape recruitment efforts to attract candidates with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are characteristic of effective school leaders" (p. 8).

In response to these recommendations, the Department would like to change admissions standards for both the master's program and specialist's program in educational administration.

Currently, the following requirements are in place:

- 1 2.75 GPA (2.5 provisional),
- 2 Meet requirements for Graduate School admission
- 3 Applicants must demonstrate a focus of interest in school administration.

The department would like to:

- 1 **Increase GPA to 3.0 (2.75 provisional)**

Add the following requirements:

2 Require a departmental application consisting of:

- ☑ A writing sample demonstrating experience and interest in leadership.
- ☑ Evidence of support from his/her school (signature of school principal or superintendent)

3 Require applicants to complete the Ventures Administrator Profiler, a research-based on-line screening tool for finding the best candidates to lead dynamic learning communities. This is currently being used by Texas Tech and St. Louis University in their screening process. This tool develops a profile of the applicant's purpose for entering the program, his/her dispositions, and human relations skills. The results of the profiler will be used with other application materials in the screening process.

NATURE OF CHANGE

From:

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see " Admission to Degree and Certificate Programs"). In addition, applicants must demonstrate a focus of interest in school administration. This focus can be documented through the submission of one of the following documents:

- Master's Degree- A valid teaching certificate.
Specialist's Degree- A principal's certificate.
- Master's Degree- Documentation of admission to and continuing participation in a teacher certification program.
Specialist's Degree- Document of admission to and continuing participation in a principal certification program.
- Both degrees- Documentation of employment in an administrative position at the community college or university and a statement of career goals emphasizing educational administration.

Extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the Department Faculty for consideration.

TO:

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see " Admission to Degree and Certificate Programs"). **In addition, students must:**

- Have earned a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (2.75 for provisional admission) or GPA of 3.0 (2.75 for provisional admission) on last 60 hours
- Submit a writing sample demonstrating experience and interest in leadership.
- Complete and submit the departmental admission application
- Complete the Ventures Administrator Profiler on-line

In addition, applicants must demonstrate a focus of interest in school administration. This focus can be documented through the submission of one of the following documents:

- Master's Degree- A valid teaching certificate.
Specialist's Degree- A principal's certificate.
- Master's Degree- Documentation of admission to and continuing participation in a teacher certification program.
Specialist's Degree- Document of admission to and continuing participation in a principal certification program.
- Both degrees- Documentation of employment in an administrative position at the community college or

university and a statement of career goals emphasizing educational administration.

Extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the Department Faculty for consideration. **Based on application materials supplied, applicants will be screened for admission to the specified program.**

APPROVALS:

APPROVALS:

Date approved by the department: 5/21/2007

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 9/10/07

Date approved by CGS:

Date approved by COTE: