



The Graduate School
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Effective Date: Spring 2010

Graduate Certificate Program Proposal

Part 1: Catalog: Information appearing in this section of the proposal will be published in the Graduate Catalog.

Name of Department or School:

Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education

Title of the Certificate Program:

Certificate in Reading Instruction

Certificate Program Mission:

The Certificate in Reading Instruction is designed for educators who hold a valid teaching certificate, have previously completed coursework in developmental reading methods and want to further develop their professional knowledge and skills in regard to teaching reading to students (i.e., Pre-School to Grade 12). Although this Certificate does not result in the Reading Teacher Endorsement with the State of Illinois, these graduate courses in reading may be applied toward the requirements for the Reading Teacher Endorsement in Illinois, including a graduate level practicum.

Certificate Admission Requirements:

This certificate is available to certified teachers who can provide documentation of prior coursework in reading methods (e.g., ELE 3280 Developmental Reading in the Elementary School – 3 hrs. or ELE 3281 Developmental Reading in Early Childhood – 3 hrs.). To be eligible for admission to the certificate program, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School that include verification of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution approved by Eastern Illinois University. In addition, documentation of a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 within the last 60 hours of undergraduate study (or 3.0 GPA in the first 12 hours of graduate coursework) is required. The applicant must submit an Application for Admission to the Graduate School and an Application for Admission to the Certificate Program through the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education.

Certificate Study Plan:

A certificate study plan must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education and be filed with the Graduate School no later than the 10th day of classes during the last semester in which the student is enrolled in courses counting toward the graduate certificate.

Certificate Course/Curriculum Requirements:

The Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education Certificate in Reading Instruction requires 18 semester hours of study including both required and elective courses. Total Credits: 18

Required Courses (Required Credits - 15):

The fifteen semester hours of required coursework are listed below.

- ELE 5260 - Advanced Developmental Reading – 3 hrs.
- ELE 5600 - Diagnosis of Reading Problems – 3 hrs.
- ELE 5610 - Remediation of Reading Problems – 3 hrs.
- ELE 5620 - Remedial Reading Practicum – 3 hrs.
- ELE/MLE 5270 - Content Area Literacy Instruction – 3 hrs.

Elective Courses (Elective Credits – 3):

The remaining three elective hours are to be selected from the list of courses provided below.

- ELE 4880 - Diagnostic/Prescriptive Reading – 3 hrs.
- ENG 4903 - Young Adult Literature – 3 hrs.
- ENG 4905 - Studies in Children's Literature – 3 hrs.
- ELE 5400 - Special Issues in Children's Literature – 3 hrs.
- ELE 5990 - Independent Study in Children's Literature – 3 hrs.

NOTE: In special circumstances other courses may be used as elective credit if approved by the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education.

Courses Applicable Toward a Specific Concurrent or Future Degree Program:

Upon approval from the graduate coordinator, the fifteen required graduate course credits completed for the certificate program may be applied to a Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Eastern Illinois University to fulfill requirements for the emphasis in reading. All courses applied to the certificate or degree program must be completed within the six-year time limit. All other regulations established by the Graduate School pertaining to degree study will be applicable to the courses if used toward a concurrent or future degree program.

EIU seniors may enroll for courses under the "Reserve Graduate Credit" option; but will be required to meet the standard admission requirements to be admitted to the certificate program after completion of the baccalaureate degree. Meeting the requirement to take courses under the reserve graduate credit option does not guarantee admission to the certificate program or the Master's Degree in Elementary Education.

Part II: Rationale: Information appearing in this section of the proposal will be used for Council review, but will not appear in the Graduate Catalog.

Program Rationale and Justification:

An important point noted in examining enrollment figures at the graduate level was that "non-degree seeking" students often enroll in early childhood, elementary and middle level education graduate classes (e.g., those pursuing the Reading Teacher Endorsement in Illinois). When reviewing the rosters for ELE 5600 and ELE 5610 for Summer 2009, it was discovered that half the students enrolled were non-degree seeking graduate students. Some of these individuals are not eligible to enroll in the elementary education master's degree program, because they do not meet the department's admission requirements (e.g., the student has teacher certification for Grades 6-12, rather than K-6).

The addition of the Certificate in Reading Instruction will assist the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education in documenting the enrollment of graduate students who are advised by faculty members in the department in order to qualify for the Reading Teacher Endorsement in Illinois. In addition, it would provide these students with recognition from the University for graduate work and, hopefully, prove to be a steppingstone to the Master's Degree Program in Elementary Education for some students.

Impact on Existing Programs:

No negative impact to existing programs is anticipated.

Existing Courses that Apply to the Certificate:

All of the proposed required and elective graduate level courses are existing courses at Eastern Illinois University.

New Courses Required for the Certificate Program: N/A

Number of Students Expected to Enroll Each Year: 15

Department Contact: Dr. Linda M. Reven, Graduate Coordinator

Part III: Approvals:

Department/School Curriculum Committee:

EC/ELE/MLE Curriculum Committee – September 10, 2009

EC/ELE/MLE Faculty – September 11, 2009

CEPS Curriculum Committee: September 28, 2009

Council on Graduate Studies: