

Educator Preparation Update – December, 2011

Teachers, Administrators, and School Service Personnel

Please review the following changes, upcoming changes, and reminders/updates carefully. Major changes continue to be implemented statewide that dramatically impacted our teacher education, school service personnel, and administrative programs and candidates. Please share this information with your students, advisees, and colleagues as appropriate.

Recent Changes

Early Release of Teaching Certificate Eliminated (Became Effective 7/1/2011)

Institutions are no longer allowed to complete paperwork allowing candidates to receive their teaching certificates (including substitute certificates) until all coursework and graduation is posted to their transcript. Unfortunately this will make it challenging for summer graduates with positions beginning in August and for fall graduates with positions beginning in January. We are currently working with graduation officers and the registrar's office to streamline this process as much as possible so we can help our candidates get certified as quickly as possible. For Fall 2011, our goal is to finalize teacher certification documentation no later than December 27th.

Adding Endorsements to an Existing Certificate

Candidates who currently hold a teaching certificate and have completed the requirements to add an additional endorsement to that existing certificate here at EIU can now have that evaluation and endorsement added through EIU rather than going through a Regional Office of Education (ISBE fees apply). We will also do evaluations for currently certified teachers on what would be required for them to qualify for additional endorsements. Forms are available through the Dean's Office, College of Education & Professional Studies, 1420 Buzzard Hall.

Principal Preparation Program Redesign Continues

The Department of Educational Leadership continues their work in redesigning the Principal preparation program in accordance with the new state rules. It is their plan to present their program in Spring 2012 to the State Teacher Certification Board. All programs must be re-approved as meeting the new rules before they can admit any new candidates after September 1, 2012.

Changes to Become Effective February 2012

C or Better Requirement in All Coursework Used for Graduation –Effective February 2012

According to Section 125.100 of the Illinois Administrative Code governing teaching certification, effective February 1, 2012 all professional education and content-area coursework that forms part of an application for certification, endorsement or approval must have been passed with a grade no lower than "C". Furthermore, according to additional guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education, the "C" or better requirement includes any course that constitutes part of an approved teacher education program (including general education and elective courses regardless of where the courses were taken) leading to certification via entitlement.

For this reason, on October 12, 2010 the Council on Teacher Education (COTE) passed the following:

All students graduating after December 2011 with a teacher certification major must receive a grade of "C" or better in all courses, regardless where they are taken, used toward graduation including general education, professional education, major and minor courses, all university required courses, and electives. Furthermore, any course used for the purpose of adding endorsements to a teaching certificate must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

All post baccalaureate teacher certification candidates completing a teacher certification program after December 2011 must receive a grade of "C" or better in all courses, regardless where they are taken, used toward completion of the program. Furthermore, any course used for the purpose of adding endorsements to a teaching certificate must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Change in Requirements for Adding Secondary Endorsements –Effective February 2012

According to Section 125.100 of the Illinois Administrative Code governing teaching certification, effective February 1, 2012 candidates wanting to qualify for additional high school level (9-12) endorsements on their secondary teaching certificate must complete a minimum of 24 semester hours in the subject-area (with at least 12 semester hours being at the upper division) and pass the content test in that subject area. The exceptions to this requirement are in social science and science which still require 32 semester hours and the test.

Change in Requirements for Safety/Driver Education Endorsement – Effective February 2012

The requirements for the Driver Education endorsement will change for anyone applying for and completing the requirements for the endorsement on or after February 1, 2012. The requirements for the endorsement will be much more extensive and stringent, requiring specific coursework. Under the new requirements, the coursework required for the minor is the same coursework required to qualify for the endorsement. The requirements for the new Driver Education Minor can be found at http://catalog.eiu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=2835&returnto=721

Changes to the Basic Skills Test

As sent out under in a previous email there will be major changes to the basic skills test this spring. Details on these changes can be found on our EIU's basic skills preparation website (<http://eiu.edu/basicskillstest/>). We will continue to update the educator preparation community as more details become available. Watch for more information in early January.

Changes to Become Effective July 2012

Require Passage Basic Skills for Entry into Educator Preparation Program, Content Tests Prior to Beginning Student Teaching or Internship and Passage of APT Prior to Graduation/Program Completion.

Under PA097-0607 all candidates enrolled in a program leading to licensure in Illinois (initial and advanced) must pass the basic skills test in order to be formally admitted to that program. In addition, candidates (initial and advanced) must pass all required content area tests prior to beginning student teaching or internships. Finally, all candidates enrolled in an approved teacher education program must all pass the APT examination for the appropriate grade levels in order to graduate/complete their approved program. School Service Personnel candidates are not required to pass the APT. This requirement is effective July 1, 2012 and therefore impacts our graduates beginning in Summer 2012.

Changes to Become Effective July 2013

Consolidation to a Single Professional License with Grade-level/Subject-area endorsements

Currently, individuals may obtain multiple certificates for various grade levels, supervisory areas, and specialty areas. PA 097-0607, signed by the Governor this past summer, creates a single professional license, Illinois Professional Educator License, which would list the validity dates, grade levels and subjects for which an individual is eligible to be employed. With this consolidation, additional endorsements at the elementary level will be developed to document expertise in specified areas. There is a state-wide committee (Elementary, Middle Grades Advisory Group) working on statewide standards for Elementary (K-5) and Middle Grades (6th-8th grades) and what will be required to be eligible for these credentials. The work of this committee can be found online at <http://www.isbe.net/esd/htmls/emag.htm>. There is also ongoing discussion on how Early Childhood falls within this framework. The effective date for the transition to a single license under the legislation is July 1, 2013. The details on implementation of these changes would have to go through the rules making process.

Redesign of Professional Education Programs to Meet Revised Illinois Professional Teaching Standards

No later than July 1, 2013, all approved teacher preparation programs shall submit the course of study for that program with evidence that the program's or course's content is congruent with the revised Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (23 Ill. Adm. Code 24.130). No later than September 1, 2013, the assessment of professional teaching (APT) required for the issuance of an initial teaching certificate under 23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.720 (Certification) shall be based on these revised standards. The revised Illinois Professional Teaching Standards can be found in Section 24.130 within the following link - <http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/24ark.pdf>. Please take time to review these standards and help your candidates become familiar with these revised standards. Faculty from across campus have been hard at work redesigning professional education courses and the professional education programs to meet these revised standards. It is our expectation that the course changes will work their way through curriculum committee and CAA during Spring 2012 and the program changes will be presented to curriculum and COTE Spring 2012 and/or Fall 2012.

Changes to Become Effective September 2015 (Must be phased in beginning 2013)

State-wide Evidence Based Assessment of Teacher Effectiveness (Teacher Performance Assessment)

PA 097-0607 requires that beginning in September 2015, all teacher education candidates must pass a state developed teacher performance assessment in order to complete an approved teacher education program. Such an assessment is already required in several states and is currently being piloted at several Illinois institutions. In keeping with this public act we must begin phasing in the Teacher Performance Assessment into all teacher education programs no later than 2013.

Other Upcoming Changes

PA 097-0607 also includes revision to Alternative Certification programs (moving from a one year program to a two year program), creation of a new Teacher Leader endorsement, and a requirement that all substitute teachers pass the basic skills test. This legislation will require new rules be created by ISBE and approved through the appropriate channels.

