

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council on Graduate Studies
Council on Teacher Education

FROM: Diane H. Jackman, Dean
College of Education and Professional Studies

DATE: April 18, 2011

RE: Executive Action Item

The following was approved by executive action at the College of Education and Professional Studies Curriculum Committee meeting on March 28, 2011. I concur with the revision and ask the changes be made by executive action. The effective date should be Fall 2011.

Requested Change: to revise the mission statement for the M.S. in Ed. in Special Education.

~~The Master's of Science in Special Education is designed to prepare educational personnel for the diverse roles they will be asked to play in special education. This flexible program is designed for teachers with special education certification, teachers with regular education certification, and individuals without certification preparing for a career in special education. Individuals who desire initial or additional certifications may be required to complete additional course work.~~

The graduate major in Special Education program mission is to prepare graduates for advanced professional practice with individuals with exceptional learning needs. Individuals may pursue additional endorsements which may include earning a supervisory endorsement, earning an LBS II for "Curriculum Adaptation Specialist" or "Behavior Intervention Specialist," or preparing to be a "Director" of Special Education.

Rationale for the changes:

Across the past 18 months, the Department engaged in a self-study specific to preparation for and submission of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Report. As part of the report, programs are asked to reflect on the program mission as it related to the University and College mission statements and to discuss initiatives and program changes since the prior IBHE report which was in 2004. As we considered our mission statement, we perceived that in light of the initiatives and changes in the graduate program since 2004 our mission statement no longer reflected our program. This was the impetus for the above revision.

cc: Dr. Shank