

**Notice of Change for CHSS-SOE-Elementary Education; adding two courses to major requirements; program requirements**

**Date:** 2/15/16

**A. PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**1. Name of institution**

University of Rhode Island

**2. Name of department, division, school or college**

Department: School of Education

College: Human Science and Services (College of Education and Professional Studies as of July 1, 2016)

**3. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.**

Initiation date: Fall 2016

First degree date: n/a

**4. Intended location of the program**

No change. University of Rhode Island-Kingston Campus

**5. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages).**

Delete Second Major requirement

Currently Elementary Education majors are required to have a second major. This is not a requirement for accreditation or certification locally or nationally. We will no longer require a second major. We will recommend students pursue additional certifications in Middle Level and ESL teaching. Middle level will require at least 21 credits in a content area taught in middle school (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies). This may lead to students choosing to complete a second major. ESL has a group of eight courses required for certification, which could be a minor.

Delete required courses taken through general education

In the prior general education program students were required by our major to take COM 100, WRT 104, PSY 113, HIS 141 or 142, and a foreign language in their general education program. We believe that there will be ample opportunity in the new general education program for students to get a breadth of experience necessary to enhance their general knowledge. We will retain PSY 232 or HDF 200 (development), and a lab science as requirements for our program. However, students will be informed that they can choose to take these courses as part of their general education program. In addition, we will encourage students to take additional courses in English Language Arts, Mathematics,

Science, and Social Studies in order to further develop content knowledge necessary for teaching elementary school children.

Add to the requirements of the Elementary Education BA program: MTH 208 (4) Numeracy for Teachers and MTH 209 (4) Numeracy for Teachers II. MTH 208 may be taken as a general education course.

Nationally there is always a concern that Elementary Education teachers entering the profession have sufficient Mathematics expertise upon entering the profession. Our accreditors (ACEI, NCATE, RIDE) and other interested parties look to see that our students are receiving sufficient preparation in Mathematics.

In consultation with the Mathematics department a course was developed focusing on the Mathematics needed by teachers so that they would be able to competently teach Mathematics. MTH 208 Numeracy for Teachers was the course developed. This course was designed by the Mathematics Department to provide an in-depth experience for Elementary Education majors on the Mathematics they are required to teach in grades 1-8. HDF Early Childhood candidates also take the course. MTH 208 has been offered for over 10 years and is part of the current general education program and is being considered for the revised general education program. We have 'highly recommended' but have not required this class of our students at this point. At this time students usually take MTH 208 as part of their general education program. The Mathematics Department, in consultation with Elementary Education, recommended that MTH 208 be split into two courses so that student can get sufficient experience with mathematics concepts. Mathematics 209 was approved in May 2015. The courses are meant to be a two-semester sequence and are to be taken prior to taking EDC 456 Mathematics Methods in Elementary and Middle School Teaching (second semester Junior year).

We expect that approximately 60 Elementary Education candidates will take these classes every year once the cycle is established. Early Childhood candidates may also take these classes. These candidates will be better able to apply appropriate mathematics concepts in their methods class and in their classroom. While this will add 8 credits to the Elementary Education program, with attentive advising, there should be no difficulty for students to complete their degree in 4 years. Many may choose to take 4 of these credits in their general education program.

## **6. Signature of the President**

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David M. Dooley

## Elementary Education revised catalog language

### Revised Catalogue Language

Undergraduate students who are admitted to the Elementary Education program are required to complete a bachelor's degree. In addition, students are encouraged to complete a second major or degree, or minors, which may be chosen from the list of undergraduate university majors and minors and degrees. In addition students are encouraged to seek additional certifications in middle school or English as a Second Language.

The professional sequence courses required for elementary education are: prior to program admission EDC 102, 250, 312; Prior to student teaching EDC 402, 423, 424, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, and 460; Student Teaching EDC 484 and 485. Students must get a C or above in the professional sequence courses and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50. The following are also required, some of which may be taken as part of general education requirements: A natural science with a lab, PSY 232 or HDF 200; MTH 208 and MTH 209. Students should contact the School of Education for more details.