

APPENDIX L

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree at Fayetteville State University

Introduction

Fayetteville State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree (CIP# 13.1299) in September 2004. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2005.

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Teaching emphasizes preparation to teach in a specific content area. The MAT is designed to prepare liberal arts graduates for licensure as public school teachers. The proposed program provides curricula leading to an MAT with a concentration in one of six subject-matter fields taught at grades 9-12 (Biology, English, History, Mathematics, Political Science, and Sociology), one of four subject-matter fields taught at grades 6-9 (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies), and Special Education for grades K-12. The MAT program requires 39 semester hours of course work. Students will be required to complete competencies for the initial license, including PRAXIS II as a prerequisite to being accepted to the MAT program. At the completion of all initial licensure competencies, the student must complete a project based on experiences in the public schools as a student intern or as a lateral entry teacher.

Program Need

The FSU MAT program will serve mid-career professionals and educators who desire or are mandated to acquire or upgrade their teaching license and/or who desire to improve their teaching abilities. The program will mainly serve in-service and lateral entry teachers, and will address high teacher shortage content areas such as Mathematics, Science, and Special Education. In addition to the well-documented shortage of new teachers being produced to respond to the demand for teachers in North Carolina over the next decade, the FSU region has a particularly high teacher turnover rate. Hoke County, which is contiguous to Cumberland County, has the highest turnover rate in the state (26-30 percent), and four other counties in the region have annual turnover rates of 16-20 percent. It is anticipated that the program will enroll 12 full-time and 25 part-time students each year.

Resources

No additional state resources are required. Program needs will be addressed through internal reallocations and enrollment increase funds.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at Fayetteville State University effective August 2005.