

APPENDIX N

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree at UNC Pembroke

Introduction

UNC-Pembroke notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree (CIP# 13.1299) in November 2003. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2004.

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Teaching is an interdisciplinary degree option within the Teacher Education Program, offered by the School of Education in cooperation with the College of Arts & Sciences. The MAT degree is for individuals with undergraduate majors in sciences, humanities, or social sciences who have had few, if any, formal courses in education. The degree program is available only to those individuals who have not earned licensure and who are seeking certification in the teaching field in which they wish to earn the degree. The program will include a minimum of 18 semester hours of graduate work in teaching pedagogy and professional education and 18 hours of advanced coursework in one of the following areas: Social Studies/History, Physical Education, Art Education, English Education, Science Education, Middle Grades, and Mathematics Education. In addition, a 10-week internship is required if the candidate is not employed as a lateral entry teacher. Upon successful completion of the MAT program, recipients will be eligible for the North Carolina "M" license.

Program Need

Currently, UNCP provides "licensure only" coursework to approximately 250 students each semester. Individual plans of study are developed for each student, with the total hours required frequently in excess of 50 hours. The total number of hours to obtain licensure is sometimes excessive. Students, through the MAT, could obtain licensure in less time. The MAT program would appeal as an alternative pathway to NC teacher certification/licensure. Based on current inquiries to the School of Education, discussions with professionals, a review of enrollment figures in existing programs in the School of Education, and an analysis of teacher shortages and employment opportunities in the region and state, UNCP anticipates that 60 students would be enrolled in the program by its fourth year.

Resources

No additional state resources are required to implement the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at UNC-Pembroke effective August 2004.