

APPENDIX K
Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in
Teaching Degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Introduction

UNC Charlotte notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Teaching (CIP# 13.1299) on January 28, 2002. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2002.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree is tailored to the needs of lateral entry teachers and mid-career professionals seeking to enter the teaching profession. The program is structured to align with the NC Department of Public Instruction competencies for beginning teachers and the 1997 Excellent Schools Act's advanced competencies requirements for master's degrees. The program will have 17 licensure tracks distributed among Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, Special Education, Secondary Education (8 areas), Fine and Performing Arts Education (4 areas), and Foreign Language Education (2 areas).

Program Need

In February, 1998, the UNC Office of the President, in accordance with actions of the Board of Governors, gave UNC constituent institutions authorization to plan master's programs in education in response to provisions of the 1997 Excellent Schools Act. There is a chronic and growing teacher shortage in North Carolina, and the largest number of provisionally licensed lateral entry teachers work in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools. The proposed program addresses the shortage in three ways: (1) faster, but rigorous and standards-based, route to licensure, (2) incentive for retention of teachers, and (3) recruitment of mid-career professionals. There are currently more than 600 post-baccalaureate students seeking initial licensure through the College of Education via non-degree programs of undergraduate or graduate courses, and inquiries and applications are on file from another 1,000 potential students. Many of these people are already lateral entry teachers seeking licensure to keep their positions and improve their content knowledge and pedagogical skills. The MAT will provide a structured program that combines a faster route to initial licensure as well as the master's degree. Enrollment of 25 full-time and 440 part-time students is expected by the fourth year of the program.

Resources

Although a new degree, the content is highly related to that of current coursework in the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. Current library holdings, facilities, and equipment are sufficient, and future additional faculty positions will be funded from enrollment growth funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte effective August 1, 2002.