



ACADEMIC ALERT #2004-11

DATE: July, 2004
DECISION: National College of Education:

Revision to Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Secondary Education

Traditional Certification exists

Addition of Two Options:

Alternative Certification (AC)

Alternative Route to Certification (ARC)

Rationale

The Secondary Education Program has an existing MAT degree that offers a Traditional Route to Certification, which requires 31 semester hours of coursework and is geared to those with a bachelor's degree and broad based general education and discipline courses who want an Illinois secondary education certificate.

The Secondary Education Program received ISBE approvals for AC and ARC in June 2002, but never sought approval from SAPC or Faculty Senate. The AC and ARC models or options have been operating for approximately four years without internal approvals, and an academic alert was never issued.

There is one degree program, the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Secondary Education. Now there are three models or options: the Traditional M.A.T. Secondary Education model or option; the M.A.T. Secondary Education Alternative Certification (AC) model or option; and the M.A.T. Secondary Education Alternative Route to Certification (ARC) model or option,

NCE Curriculum Council Approval: June 4, 2003

Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: June 3, 2004

Faculty Senate Approval: July 21, 2004

Current Program Authorizations

The university currently has authorization to offer the M.A.T. in Secondary Education in the following Illinois regions: Chicago, North Suburban, West Suburban, Fox Valley, Central, Prairie, South Metro, and Western.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: July 22, 2003

CONTACTS: Dr. Jerry Ligon, Program Coordinator, Secondary Education, Ext. 5699

SIGNATURE

Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost

AC and ARC Programs

While the delivery is different, the courses for all three programs are identical, with the exception of the student teaching hours and experience. The UCOs for all classes are the same as for the traditional program and regular classes with the following changes: the initial certification courses in the program are offered in August before the student begins teaching. The remaining courses are offered during the regular academic year.

Alternative Certification (AC)

Students working for this certification hold a one-year PROVISIONAL certificate during the first year and after completing certified courses, and one year of an internship, receive an ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATE. These teachers must pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills and Content area tests before acceptance to the program. Teachers may apply for an INITIAL CERTIFICATE (the standard Type 09) after four years of teaching.

Partnerships: Teach For America (partnership with TFA will end in 2004), Chicago Public Schools and National-Louis University.

The delivery of the coursework is based on the professional development school model. Teachers work under the direction of mentor teachers and are enrolled in after-school coursework throughout the school year rather than on a typical 10-week quarter calendar.

Alternative Route to Certification (ARC)

Students working for this certification work under a type 29 or 39 during the first year and must pass the Test of Basic Skills before being admitted to the program. All certified course work is completed during the first year, and candidates must pass the content test before proceeding to the second year. In the second year, the teacher begins his/her internship. These teachers receive a one-year PROVISIONAL certificate. At the end of the second year, teachers receive the INITIAL CERTIFICATE (the standard Type 09).

Partnership: Chicago Public Schools and National-Louis University

The delivery of the coursework is based on the professional development school model. Teachers work under the direction of mentor teachers and are enrolled in after-school coursework throughout the school year rather than on a typical 10-week quarter calendar.

Admission Requirements

The admission requirements to the University are identical to the traditional M.A.T Secondary Education program with the exception that candidates must be interviewed and accepted by Chicago Public Schools before being admitted to one of the groups. Admission is coordinated with partners and not through open enrollments.

Implementation

Offices of Admissions, Registrar, NCE Certification, enrollment and recruitment staff, and faculty advisors need to be knowledgeable of the differences among the three options or routes: traditional, AC and ARC.

AC and ARC need to be built into Banner and curriculum rules need to be written.

The two models or options of AC and ARC need to be added to the other M.A.T. Secondary Education options in the next catalogue 2005-2006. The program coordinator needs to rewrite the catalog copy as soon as this alert is posted and submit to the Office of the Registrar and Office of the Provost.

Students are eligible for financial aid.