



## **ACADEMIC ALERT #2007-04**

**DATE:** March, 2007  
**DECISION:** National College of Education (NCE)

### **Revised Early Childhood Special Education 4 Course Approval**

#### **Rationale**

Beginning January 1, 2002, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) revised its requirements for the early childhood special education approval to an individual who holds either an early childhood certificate or a special preschool-age 21 certificate with an LBS I endorsement. NLU changed its four course approval sequence to meet the updated ISBE requirements, by revising one course and creating three new courses.

**Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: February 15, 2007**

**Faculty Senate Approval: Point of Information; Not Needed**

**Provost Approval: Point of Information; Not Needed**

**Program Authorizations:** The Early Childhood Special Education Approval is authorized to be offered in the following Illinois Regions: Chicago; North Suburban; West Suburban; and South Metropolitan.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Effective Immediately**

**CONTACTS:** Barbara Leys, Faculty, Special Education (847) 947-5838; Donna Wakefield, Faculty, Special Education, (630) 874-4628.

#### **SIGNATURE**

**Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.**  
**Vice Provost**

## **Four Courses in the Old Sequence for Early Childhood Special Education Approval**

ECE 512 Early Childhood Curriculum 2 SH

EPS 536 Diagnostic Evaluation of the Preschool Child 2 SH

SPE 500 Introduction to Exceptional Children and Adolescents/Special Education 3 SH

SPE 510 Speech and Language Development in Early Childhood/Special Education 2-3 SH

## **Description of Early Childhood Special Education Approval by ISBE**

Beginning January 1, 2002, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) revised its requirements for the early childhood special education approval to an individual who holds either an early childhood certificate or a special preschool-age 21 certificate with an LBS I endorsement, provided that the individual makes application for such approval on a form supplied by ISBE demonstrating that he or she has successfully completed coursework in all the following areas:

**Methods** – Developmentally and individually appropriate methods for fostering the social, emotional, cognitive, communication, adaptive, and motor development and learning of young children with special needs in various settings such as the home, the school, and the community.

**Assessment** – Strategies, procedures, and formal and informal instruments for assessing young children's social, emotional, cognitive, communication, and motor skills; family concerns, priorities, and resources; and school, home, and community learning environments; and methods for conducting formative and summative individual and program evaluation.

**Language Development** – Typical and atypical language development in young children; specific language disabilities; the relationship between communication delays and other areas of early learning and development; and alternative communication systems for young children with disabilities

**Family and Community Relationships** – Strategies in developing positive and supportive relationships with families of young children with special needs, including the legal and philosophical basis for family participation; family-centered services; and strategies for working with socially, culturally, and linguistically diverse families. Strategies and models for promoting effective consultation and collaboration with other professionals and agencies within the community.

## **Four Courses in the New Sequence for Early Childhood Special Education Approval**

*All courses have received Pilot approval before receiving approval through Graduate Council and Senate Curriculum Committee (SCC: for new courses only).*

SPE 510 Early Childhood Special Education Language Development and Challenges; 2 SH

*This is a revised course; formerly Speech and Language Development in Early Childhood*

SPE 532 Early Childhood Special Education Curriculum, Instruction, and Methods; 3 SH (New Course)

SPE 533 Early Childhood Special Education Diagnostic Assessment 3 SH (New Course)

SPE 534 Early Childhood Special Education Collaboration, Family and Community; 3 SH (New Course)

## **Courses Not Part of Approval; Courses Remain in Banner and in the Catalog**

ECE512: Early Childhood Curriculum 2 SH

EPS536: Diagnostic Evaluation of the Preschool Child 2 SH

SPE500: Introduction to Exceptional Children and Adolescents/Special Education 3 SH

## **Implementation**

All changes need to be entered in Banner and CAPP.

Marketing and related materials must be changed.

Faculty advisors (Special and Early Childhood Education) must be knowledgeable about these changes.

Special Education faculty must work with the Vice Provost and University Registrar Catalog to ensure that catalog copy is correctly prepared and ready for the 2007-2008 catalog.