



## **ACADEMIC ALERT #2008-11**

**DATE:** June 2008

**DECISION:** National College of Education (NCE)  
M.Ed. C.A.S. Early Childhood Administration (ECA)  
Revision of On-Campus Residency; Eliminate Course-by-Course Model

**RATIONALE:**

**Eliminate Single Course Delivery Model.** Over the past 6 years, student interest in the cohort model has far outpaced interest in pursuing their degrees on a course-by-course, semester-to-semester basis. In addition, since the vast majority of ECA students make use of student loans and other forms of tuition assistance, the pace required of them to stay eligible for financial aid mirrors that of the cohort schedule. As a result, the number of ECA students on the course-by-course plan has dwindled to less than 10 students, many of whom having been on hiatus from their coursework for 2 or more years.

By discontinuing the course-by-course delivery model, students enrolling in the ECA program will be advised to join a cohort to begin their course sequence. This strategy ensures that courses are offered on a timeline that accommodates the completion of their degrees within an 18-24 month span. Course registration levels will also be sufficient to meet reasonable economies of scale related to faculty and instructional costs, and the accuracy in forecasting course schedules is enhanced.

**Reduce On-Campus Residencies from 3 to 2.** The number of on-campus residencies that ECA students are required to attend is reduced from 3 to 2. The new plan requires a 5-day residency to begin the cohort experience and a 6-day residency the following year in conjunction with the annual *Leadership Connections* conference for early childhood administrators. This plan does not alter the number of on-campus days students are required to attend over the course of their degree sequence: Previous cohorts have attended a 4-day residency to begin, another 4 days at the midpoint, and a 3-day residency at the completion of their programs.

**APPROVALS:** Senate Academic Planning Committee: May 15, 2008  
Point of Information; No other approvals required.

**PROGRAM AUTHORIZATIONS:** The Early Childhood Administration program is authorized to be offered in the following Illinois Regions: Chicago; North Suburban; West Suburban and South Metropolitan. The program is also approved to be offered online.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Fall Term, 2008

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**SIGNATURE**

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

## **Implementation**

The revised degree program needs to be entered in Banner and CAPP.

Revisions need to be reflected in marketing materials, and added to NLU's website.

The revised catalog copy will be written and submitted to the Vice Provost and Assistant Registrar for Schedules and Catalogs to ensure that catalog copy is prepared and ready for the next catalog, 2009-2010.