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## **ACADEMIC ALERT #2011-09**

**DATE:** March 2011

**DECISION:** National College of Education (NCE)

**Elimination of C.A.S. Early Childhood Administration (ECA) Degree Option  
Online**

**The M.Ed. Early Childhood Administration Degree Program Online Remains**

**RATIONALE:** Low enrollment data indicates that the C.A.S option has been highly unpopular over the last five years. This certificate option was intended to provide students who already have a master's degree the option of taking a modified class sequence and fewer course credits to receive a Certificate of Advanced Study as opposed to another master's degree. Possible reasons for the lack of interest in the C.A.S option are: the C.A.S option requires approximately the same amount of coursework as the M.Ed. with only three fewer semester hours; in a traditionally undereducated population of professionals, students interested in the ECA program tend to only hold a bachelor's degree, and few have already achieved a master's degree.

**APPROVAL(S):** Senate Academic Planning Committee March 17, 2011

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Effective Immediately

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**SIGNATURE:**

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

**Teach-Out**

There are currently no active C.A.S. ECA students pursuing the degree option. The last student graduated in December of 2010 and no additional students have been admitted since this time.

Students who are away from the University for more than 1 year will need to complete a re-entry form and will be re-evaluated according to the degree requirements currently in effect upon re-entry.

Students who have been inactive for more than 5 years will have to submit a new application with supporting credentials to the Office of Admissions.

With regard to students who stopped out of the C.A.S. degree option, an ECA faculty advisor must work closely with returning students and the Registrar's Office to determine what courses remain to be taken to complete requirements for the M.Ed. ECA in existence at the time of reentry or readmission.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Changes need to be entered in Banner, and CAPP.

All references to the C.A.S. ECA degree option online must be removed from all relevant NLU web pages.

Vice Provost Carol Melnick will not count this degree option in the April 2011 Annual Institutional Data Update to the Higher Learning Commission.

Staff in the Registrar's Office, Admissions, Enrollment Management, and Marketing need to be knowledgeable about the changes.

The revised catalog copy will be written by the Assistant Registrar for Schedules and Catalogs and submitted to the Vice Provost and program chair for review and approval for the catalog, 2011-2012.