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## **ACADEMIC ALERT #2011-13**

**DATE:** May 2011

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

**Revised Admission Criteria M.A.T. Secondary Education Social Studies Concentration**

**RATIONALE:**

As a condition of its NCATE SPA accreditation review, the Secondary Education Social Studies concentration is required to revise its system for generating evidence of pre-service candidates' basic proficiency in the ten themes of the social studies as outlined by the National Council of the Social Studies. As a graduate-level program based in a Secondary Education Department, the two acceptable options available are to either require the Praxis II Social Studies Content exam or direct applicants to potentially complete further coursework at accredited college or universities prior to matriculation. Requiring the Praxis is a lower cost and likely less burdensome admissions requirement.

**APPROVAL(S):** Senate Academic Planning Committee April 21, 2011

**Current Program Authorizations:** The M.A.T. Secondary Education program is authorized by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to be offered in NLU's four home campus Illinois Regions: Chicago; North Suburban; South Metropolitan and West Suburban. In addition the M.A.T. Secondary Education is authorized to be offered in these Illinois regions: Fox Valley; Western; Prairie; and Central.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Effective for all students admitted on or after May 10, 2011 and starting on or after September 1, 2011.

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**SIGNATURE:**

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

## **Revised Admission Criteria for M.A.T. Secondary Education Social Studies Concentration**

The admission requirements for the Secondary Education Social Studies Concentration are amended to require applicants to take the Praxis II Social Studies Content Knowledge Examination (#0081). Official score reports must be submitted to the Office of Admissions. To be eligible for full admission, applicants must pass at least five (5) of the six (6) categories of the exam, including the category covering the applicant's area of endorsement in the field of certification. If applicants pass three (3) or more but fewer than five (5) categories, including the area of endorsement, they can be considered for admission with four-course review status. Students admitted with four-course review status will be assigned a social studies advisor to remediate at least two of their deficient categories. Applicants passing fewer than three (3) categories will not be admitted. Applicants can retake the Praxis Social Studies Content Knowledge examination as many times as necessary.

*The Secondary Education admission criteria section of the catalog needs to be updated by adding a 10<sup>th</sup> item to the list:*

10. Applicants with a social studies concentration must submit a passing score in at least five (5) of the six (6) categories (including the area of endorsement) on the Praxis II Social Studies Content Knowledge Examination (Test Code #0081) taken within the past ten years. Students who pass more three (3) but fewer than five (5) categories (including the area of endorsement) will be considered for four course review admission status\* on an individual basis.

\*Students admitted with four course review status must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the first four graded courses or nine semester hours after admission (whichever comes first). Per the policy, if the student fails to maintain the GPA they will be dropped from the program.

### **Implementation**

Changes need to be entered in Banner, CAPP and/or NLU web pages as appropriate.

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

Students admitted prior to May 10, 2011 who begin the M.A.T. Secondary Education Social Studies Concentration on or after September 1, 2011 will be advised to take the Praxis II Social Studies Content Examination for diagnostic and advising purposes only and will not be required to do so.

The Office of Admissions will send updated checklist letters and emails to all pending applicants. A separate notification explaining the change will be sent to all pending applicants by the Department of Secondary Education and/or Enrollment.

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 next catalog, 2012-2013.