

4 May 2023

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Amy Lubitow, Chair, Graduate Council

RE: Graduate Certificate in Early Intervention Special Education

The following proposal has been approved by the Graduate Council and is recommended for approval by the Faculty Senate.

You may read the full text of the program proposal, as well as Budget Committee comments, at the [Online Curriculum Management System \(OCMS\) Curriculum Dashboard](#).

PROPOSAL SUMMARY FOR College of Education

Graduate Certificate in Early Intervention Special Education

Certificate Type

Graduate certificate: Admission to graduate status required

Effective Term

Fall 2023

Overview of the Program

The Early Intervention Special Education (EISE) Program is designed to prepare professionals to provide services for infants, toddlers, and young children and their families with developmental delays, social-emotional behavioral needs, and disabilities. Representative positions include supporting children in community preschool and care settings such as Head Start and Early Head Start by providing consultation to their teachers; providing consultation and support for families in their homes and other community settings; providing assessment and evaluation services; working as a cross-disciplinary team member; and providing service coordination. This proposal would make the current Added Special Education: Early Intervention Early Childhood Endorsement licensure-only program into a licensure + graduate certificate program.

Evidence of Need

To illustrate the market demand for this graduate certificate, the list below shows the number of program inquiries, applicants, and total enrollment in the Added Special Education: Early Intervention Early Childhood Endorsement coursework for the past three academic years. As can be seen in the list, the number of applications does not match the number of inquiries. One reason for this is that students in licensure-only programs are not eligible for financial aid. Therefore, potential inquiries often decide to not enroll in the licensure only program or enroll in the master's degree version

of the program in order to qualify for financial aid, and then leave the program once they have met the added endorsement requirements. This means that these students do not receive a qualification from PSU and we do not receive credit from HECC for their endorsement completion. One goal of adding a graduate certificate to this existing licensure program is to rectify this issue by accurately awarding completer status and supporting program applicants.

- Year: 2020-2021
 - Program Inquiries: 48
 - Program Applications: 3
 - Total Enrollment: N/A
- Year: 2021-2022
 - Program Inquiries: 37
 - Program Applications: 6
 - Total Enrollment: 6
- Year: 2022-2023
 - Program Inquiries: 21
 - Program Applications: N/A
 - Total Enrollment: 2

Additionally, we informally polled several local districts who expressed a need for more licensed teachers in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education, and this program allows already licensed teachers to add this endorsement to their license.

Course of Study

- SpEd 509 Prac I: Supervised Field Experience (3 cr.)
- SpEd 509 Prac II: Supervised Field Experience (3 cr.)
- SpEd 580 Introduction to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (3 cr.)
- SpEd 581 Family Guided Early Intervention (3 cr.)
- SpEd 584 Assessment: EI/SE (3 cr.)
- SpEd 585 Instructional Strategies I: EI/SE (3 cr.)
- SpEd 586 Instructional Strategies II: EI/SE (3 cr.)

Total Credits: 21