LETTER OF NOTIFICATION - 10

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

(12-21 semester credit hours)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville

1. Contact person/title: Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
2. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu
3. Proposed effective date: Fall 2017
4. Name of proposed Graduate Certificate Program (Program must consist of 12-21 semester credit hours from existing graduate courses).

K-12 Online Teaching

1. Proposed CIP Code: 13.0501
2. Reason for proposed program implementation:

This proposal is asking for the creation of a graduate certificate in K-12 online teaching. Teaching online can be very different than in a brick and mortar classroom. The online setting requires the teacher to use new forms of communication, engagement, and assessment. An online teacher must also manage and engage students virtually and be more of an instructional designer and interaction facilitator. Unfortunately, current teacher preparation programs often include only a single course concerning the integration of technology in a brick and mortar classroom. Accordingly, few educators, administrators, policy makers, or parents are aware that most teachers are entering online classrooms with little or no knowledge of how to successfully teach in these settings.

The Arkansas Department of Education licenses teachers according to subject matter and grade, but does not provide an endorsement for teaching online. However, K-12 teachers are increasingly asked/required to teach online so students can meet the Arkansas state requirement of completing an online course to graduate. Moreover, no colleges within the state of Arkansas and only a handful nationwide offer a graduate certificate in K-12 online teaching. This means that the estimated 2000+ new K-12 online teachers for 2016 as well as those currently teaching online have no formal option to receive training in online teaching and may not perform as well in their online classrooms. As a remedy to this state and national need, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is proposing the creation of a graduate certificate in K-12 online teaching.

1. Provide the following:
   1. Curriculum outline - List of courses in new program – Underline required courses

ETEC 5213 Introduction to Educational Media (3 credits, Fa, Su)

ETEC 5303 Learning with Computers in K-12 Classrooms (3 credits, Sp)

CIED 5623 The School Curriculum (3 credits, Sp)

ETEC 6253 Distance Learning (3 credits, Sp, Su)

CIED 5733 Methods and Assessment in K-12 Online Teaching (3 credits, Fa)

* 1. Total semester credit hours required (Program range: 12-21 graduate semester credit hours) –

15 hours (5 courses) of required graduate semester credit hours

* 1. New courses and course descriptions

CIED 5733 *Methods and Assessment in K-12 Online Teaching* (3 credits)

This course focuses on the study of curriculum, instructional methods and assessment techniques to facilitate student learning in K-12 virtual and hybrid teaching environments. Students enrolled in the course will be required to demonstrate knowledge of prevalent and relevant models of K-12 curriculum, web-based instructional methods, assessment techniques, and utilize tools for the development and implementation of effective instruction in the K-12 virtual classroom.

* 1. Program goals and objectives

Program Goals:

1. Expand licensed K-12 teachers’ classroom expertise to include knowledge of curriculum models, instructional methods, assessment techniques, technologies, and best practices used in fully online K-12 teaching environments.
2. Prepare current K-12 teachers to plan for, create, provide, and assess effective instruction within online K-12 environments.
   1. Expected student learning outcomes

At the conclusion of this graduate certificate program the students will be able to:

1. Evaluate curriculum methods and models for use in online K-12 instruction;
2. Align online course and program outcomes to state and national K-12 standards;
3. Develop policies and procedures to assist online K-12 learners throughout the learning process;
4. Generate effective instructional materials for use in an online K-12 environment;
5. Model best teaching practices for online K-12 classrooms;
6. Design online classroom activities that adhere to research and best practices in online teaching and learning;
7. Choose and utilize multiple technologies to support online K-12 instruction; and
8. Demonstrate use of effective strategies for assessment and evaluation within online K-12 environments.
   1. Documentation that program meets employer needs

The state of Arkansas currently boasts approximately 50,000 student online course enrollments in Virtual Arkansas and Arkansas Virtual Academy (ARVA). There are 1800 full time students enrolled in ARVA online courses and 16,500 part timers in Virtual Arkansas online classrooms, and licensed Arkansas educators are responsible for teaching all of these online courses and students. Additionally, two recent legislative and charter school developments will push the number of online course enrollments and full time online students in Arkansas much higher. First, Arkansas is one of only six states that requires students to complete an online course to graduate. That means that 483,114 traditional public school students need to take an online course in Arkansas. Second, in the 2015-16 cycle, the charter review panel and state board of education authorized the creation of several new online charter schools based in the Fayetteville district, Springdale district, and statewide with the approval of the Arkansas Connections Academy. Together, these new online schools will comprise approximately 15,000 new online course enrollments and require at least 2000 Arkansas licensed teachers who will need training in how to teach online – and all of these new schools have ambitious plans to grow their enrollments.

The increase in online course enrollments and teachers means that more Arkansas teachers will need to receive training in how to teach online. While the aforementioned state-wide numbers support the need for a certificate program of this nature, Educational Technology faculty also consulted educational leaders who oversee these K-12 online programs to determine if they believe a graduate certificate in K-12 online teaching will meet this need. Conversations were held with the Head of School of Arkansas Virtual Academy (Dr. Scott Sides), Superintendent of Fayetteville Schools (Dr. Paul Hewitt – recently retired), Arkansas Connections Academy Board President (Dr. Dennis Beck) and Principal (Darla Gardner), the State Commissioner of Education (Dr. Johnny Key), and Arkansas Deputy Commissioners of Education (Dr. Mark Gotcher and Dr. Eric Saunders). The response from these key education leaders to the proposed program was overwhelming supportive, with the online school administrators indicating they would strongly encourage all of their teachers to enroll in this new certificate program.

* 1. Student demand (projected enrollment) for program

Based on statewide data and feedback from educational leaders of online K-12 programs we believe that a graduate enrollment of 15-20 students per year in the program is a conservative estimate, with actual numbers likely to be higher. The program’s courses are also in demand by Educational Technology and Curriculum and Instruction graduate students who can utilize the existing courses as well as the new course within their programs of study for the M.Ed., Ed.S., and Ph.D. degrees.

* 1. Name of institutions offering similar program and the institution(s) used as a model to develop the proposed program

No institutions within the state of Arkansas currently offer a program of this nature, and very few programs were identified nationally. While no institution served as a model for the proposed program, [Indiana University](http://www.iun.edu/education/degrees/education-certificate-online-teaching.htm), [Virginia Commonwealth University](http://www.soe.vcu.edu/programs/certificate-in-online-teaching-for-k-12-educators/), and [Boise State University](https://edtech.boisestate.edu/idaho-k-12-online-teaching-endorsement-program/) are larger institutions that offer programs that have aspects in common with this proposed certificate. Similarly, [Bowling Green State University](https://www.bgsu.edu/ecampus/certificates-and-endorsements/k-12-online-teaching-and-learning-certificate.html) and [Rio Salido College](http://www.riosalado.edu/programs/elearning/Pages/AC-Online-Teaching.aspx) are two smaller institutions that offer a similar certificate program.

* 1. Scheduled program review date (within 10 years of program implementation)

2024/2025

1. Provide documentation that proposed program has received full approval by licensure/certification entity, if required. (A graduate certificate offered for teacher/educator administrator licensure must be reviewed/approved by the Arkansas Department of Education prior to consideration by the Coordinating Board; therefore, the Education Protocol Form must be submitted to ADHE along with the Letter of Notification.)

N/A - This degree program does not involve teacher/administrator licensure.

1. Institutional curriculum committee review/approval date: December 7, 2016.
2. Will this program be offered on-campus, off-campus or via distance delivery? If yes, indicate mode of distance delivery.

Yes, online delivery via University of Arkansas Global Campus

1. Identify off-campus location. Provide a copy of e-mail notification to other institutions in the area of the proposed off-campus program offering.

N/A

1. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 30, 2017

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 30, 2017

Chief Academic Officer: Ashok Saxena Date: January 23, 2017