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, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
2. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu
3. Proposed effective date: Fall 2019
4. Name of proposed Graduate Certificate Program (Program must consist of 12-21 semester credit hours from existing graduate courses).

Music Education for Special Needs Students

1. Proposed CIP Code: 13.1312 Music Teacher Education
2. Reason for proposed program implementation:

Within the past 5 years, the number of identified students with special needs in public and private school has doubled. There is no indication that the number will decline. On the University of Arkansas campus, music education students have one 3 hour non-music specific course required for their degree in music education (CIED 3033). This requirement is concurrent with other teacher certification programs across the country. Certified music education professionals receive certification in Arkansas and throughout the nation as “PreK-12 Music” indicating they are certified to teach all levels of music education. One of the six principals of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is “zero reject”, indicating it is illegal to deny any students access to any program or activity in the public schools. Therefore, as a music teacher at the elementary or middle school level, general music teachers teach every child in the school population. Likewise, music teachers at the secondary level are required by law to teach every child who desires to be in a music class regardless of ability or disability.

The current national statistic for students identified with special needs is 12.0%. In Arkansas, that number is 12.9% with some school systems reaching as high as 22% of the total school enrollment identified under IDEA. All teachers need additional training in working with students with disabilities. University requirements across the nation requiring content specific preparation for working with special needs students in the classroom are minimal. During this past summer, I provided professional development across Arkansas in the area of teaching music to special needs students. Only 9% of the teachers I had contact with received training on this topic in their undergraduate degree programs. 75% stated they learned their strategies for teaching these students on the job while in the classroom.

Six years ago, Instructor Janet Knighten created a course titled “Music for Special Needs Students.” Since that time, she has collaborated with Dr. Alice Hammel, national and international author and specialist on teaching special needs students in music, and the area of interest in this topic has grown tremendously. Dr. Hammel began teaching an online course for UA last spring, and Instructor Knighten has continued with her course in the fall semesters. As Dr. Hammel travels across the country working with educators, she has found that there are currently no institutions that offer a graduate certificate in teaching music to students with special needs. If Dr. Hammel and Instructor Knighten are able to develop this program, they would be on the forefront in research and education in this field. There are master’s degrees in music education with an emphasis in special needs and/or autism but they require residencies and/or on-campus course work.

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

SPED 5783 Professional and Family Partnerships

SPED 5733 Inclusive Practices for Diverse Populations

MUED 5743 Characteristics of Special Needs Students in the Music Classroom

MUED 5753 Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs

MUED 5763 Practicum in Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs

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

15 semester credit hours

1. New courses and course descriptions:

Please note, these courses have been taught for a number of semesters under special topics. With the certificate proposal, it made sense to have them established with their own course code and title.

MUED 5743 Characteristics of Special Needs Students in the Music Classroom. Description: A review of characteristics and behaviors of students in the music classroom that have identified or unidentified disabilities in learning.

MUED 5753 Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs. Description: Instructs students how to construct and implement curriculum and assessments for students with special needs in a music classroom.

MUED 5763 Practicum in Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs. Description: Students will utilize and evaluate designed curriculum and assessment from MUED 5753 in a music classroom.

1. Program goals and objectives:

The graduate certificate would provide 15 hours of online content specific information based on research and best practices to facilitate deeper understanding of working with special needs students in music education. Utilizing an online format, the degree certificate would be obtainable serve the needs of teachers throughout the county. As the special needs population grows there is a tremendous need for further education about this population that is not covered in undergraduate degree programs. This program will provide that education

1. Expected student learning outcomes

Degree participants will be able to:  
1) develop a deeper understanding of the unique characteristics of students identified with disabilities under the federal program IDEA and the manner in which music meets those needs.  
2) demonstrate knowledge of public school education and the challenges encountered in providing an equal opportunity for all students.  
3) Consider the current structure of special education and a brief history of legislation and litigation in the United States relevant to special education.  
4) Obtain competencies necessary for appropriate and meaningful engagement with students who have special needs in the K-12 music classrooms.  
5) Generalize and transfer curriculum and assessment in the five domains of learning to music classroom and ensemble settings.  
6) Adopt a paradigm of student centered and inclusive classrooms in the music environment.  
7) Identify and integrate appropriate teaching strategies for performers with special needs.  
8) Identify teacher and student dispositions and qualities when teaching students who are intellectually gifted or twice exceptional.

1. Documentation that program meets employer needs

Graduate students enrolling in this certificate program will already have a license to teach Music Education, which is reciprocal with other states in the union. This program would provide advanced training in an area of specialization of music education. Advanced training and knowledge of special needs students will provide an advantage for employment opportunities as the number of identified students with special needs is growing throughout the country.

1. Student demand (projected enrollment) for program

We anticipate a minimum of 10 students during the first offering of the program.

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

Florida State University currently has a program in place but it requires residency. There are no other institutions that offer this degree plan online.

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

Spring 2020

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

1. Institutional curriculum committee review/approval date:

December 5, 2018

1. Will this program be offered on-campus, off-campus or via distance delivery? If yes, indicate mode of distance delivery.

This program will be offered via online delivery through the 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.

N/A

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 21, 2019

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 28, 2019

Chief Academic Officer: James S. Coleman Date: January 10, 2019