

Approved by the Board of Trustees
May 14, 2014

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Board Meeting
May 14, 2014

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION,
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, SPRINGFIELD

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, College of Education and Human Services

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Education and Human Services to establish the Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education.

The Elementary Education Bachelor of Arts degree program represents the restructuring of the current Elementary Education Minor that has traditionally been coupled with a major in another field. The proposed structure of the new program combines an education major with the concurrent completion of another major in an appropriate content area, such as English or mathematics. The completion of the elementary education major will be contingent upon successful completion of the requirements of the content major as well as the requirements of the education major. Through overlapping course requirements and use of advising plans, students will be able to complete the double major within the scope of the traditional four-year university experience.

Coursework for the proposed degree program will be offered in both traditional and online formats and the curriculum will require a clinical experience of student teaching. The new major does not expand the number of required hours. Students will take the same number of hours they are now completing for the minor, but earn an elementary education degree. The double major is designed to provide students with stronger content preparation compared to other programs in Illinois, making graduates potentially more attractive to employers.

The proposed double major also creates a new program that responds to the requirement by the Illinois State Board of Education that all teacher preparation programs across Illinois redesign their curricula to meet new standards and regulatory requirements. One of those regulatory requirements is that elementary teachers must be prepared through a major in elementary education. A minor will no longer be sufficient.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senate Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.