

Board Meeting
May 19, 2016

RENAME AND REVISE THE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP, CONCENTRATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE,
CHICAGO

Action: Rename and Revise the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership, Concentration in Early Childhood Education, College of Education, and the Graduate College

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate, College of Education, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming and revision of the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership, Concentration in Early Childhood Education as the Master of Education in Early Childhood Education.

The College of Education offers the M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership, and students can select from among seven concentrations, including Early Childhood Education. The Concentration in Early Childhood Education has two strands: (1) an Illinois State Board of Education accredited program that leads to an Illinois Professional Educator License with endorsements in early childhood education and early childhood special education and (2) a degree-only option that prepares students for leadership and teaching positions that do not require the license.

Within the original structure of the M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership, students completed three core courses. The remainder of their coursework was earned within a specific discipline, one of the seven concentrations. Over time, increasing expectations and requirements of Illinois teacher preparation programs have eroded the required core and this content has been integrated into concentration-specific courses. As a result, students who almost exclusively take coursework on the theory and application of early childhood education earn a degree in instructional leadership.

Renaming the degree as the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education will reflect the program's content and match the name of endorsements sought by students. It will also provide additional credentialing options for students. For example, the program offers the necessary coursework and options for completing required field experiences for the Early Intervention credential. However, the credentialing agency requires that students earn a degree with early childhood education in the degree title, not just the concentration.

Finally, the renamed and revised degree will eliminate the two-strand model. All students will complete a minimum of 32 hours of coursework in early childhood development and learning, methods and practice, foundations of education, and electives. Students interested in earning an Illinois license with various endorsements or credentials, all of which are awarded by external entities and not the University, will work with the UIC Council on Teacher Education and follow advising guides that specify additional courses required for licensure or credentialing.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect 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 Senates 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.