

RENAME AND REVISE THE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP, CONCENTRATION IN LITERACY, LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE,
CHICAGO

Action: Rename and Revise the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership, Concentration in Literacy, Language, and Culture, 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, the College of Education, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming and revision of the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership, Concentration in Literacy, Language, and Culture as the Master of Education in Language, Literacies, and Learning.

The College of Education offers the M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership, and students can select from among seven concentrations, including Literacy, Language, and Culture. The Concentration in Literacy, Language, and Culture provides students with advanced training in literacy education and enables them to understand and foster children's and adolescents' language and literacy development. The concentration has three strands: (1) an Illinois State Board of Education accredited program that leads to a Reading Teacher endorsement; (2) an ISBE-accredited program that leads to a Reading Specialist/Licensure endorsement; and (3) a degree-only option.

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 in literacy education and literacy and language development earn a degree in instructional leadership.

Renaming the degree as the M.Ed. in Language, Literacies, and Learning will better reflect the program's content and more clearly reflect the relationship to the name of endorsements sought by students. In addition, the renamed and revised degree will eliminate the three-strand model. All students will complete a minimum of 32 hours of coursework comprised of 8 hours in the core domain of language and literacy education foundations and 24 hours of electives. The electives can be used to meet, or be applied toward, the requirements of four ISBE endorsements: Reading Specialist, Reader Teacher, English as a Second Language (ESL), and/or Bilingual endorsements. This new degree structure provides much needed flexibility, so the degree can be easily reconfigured to respond to future ISBE changes in teacher licensing. Students will work with the UIC Council on Teacher Education to ensure endorsement requirements are met.

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.