

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: Undergraduate Education Minor for Secondary ~~and All Level~~ Students* (UC 9768 08F)

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Students

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The Committee met on Wednesday, October 1 to consider a request from the College of Education to modify the undergraduate education minor for secondary students. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Roger Blakeney, Debbie Hermann, Partha Krishnamurthy, Iain Morrison and Richard Scamell. Melissa Pierson attended the meeting as a guest.

Background

The education minor is designed for secondary students (i.e., students who major in some college other than the College of Education but plan to teach at the secondary level). UC 9768 08F is a proposal to modify the undergraduate education minor for secondary students currently located in the Undergraduate Catalog at http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/edu/edu_degrees.html#educ. The content of the existing and proposed education minor follow.

Existing Education Minor	Proposed Education Minor
EDUC 3205	CUIN 3313 Information Technology for Adolescents
EDUC 3206 or EDUC 3301	EDUC 3301 Introduction to Teaching
EPSY 3300	EPSY 3300 Educational Psychology
Educational methods courses – as appropriate (6 hours)	Educational methods courses – as appropriate (6 hours)
CUIN 3347 or equivalent	CUIN 3347 Reading in the Content Area
	CUIN 4375 Classroom Management

UC 9768 08F offers the following reasons for what amounts to three changes in the Education Minor.

- EDUC 3205: Learning to Teach is no longer offered and its general content is covered by EDUC 3301: Introduction to Teaching. CUIN 3313: Information Technology for Adolescents is the required technology course that secondary students have been taking for at least 10 years and allows students to meet technology standards required by the state of Texas and the College of Education's accrediting agency.
- EDUC 3206: Learning to Teach is also no longer offered and the course EDUC 3301: Introduction to Teaching and serves as the introduction to teaching courses for the education minor.
- CUIN 4375: Classroom Management has been added because the College of Education feels that all graduates from its Teacher Education Program need formal exposure in strategies for classroom management.

In addition, the proposed minor as constituted meets the coursework requirements of the state of Texas for teacher certification and allows the student to be eligible to apply for QUEST 3 Student Teaching.⁺

While the Education minor can be taken by any major, only students with an approved major can go on to seek teacher certification. A complete list of approved majors is available in the Teacher Education Office. To be recommended for Texas State Certification, students must:

* The "All Level" portion of the title of UC 9768 08F has been removed at the request of the College of Education. The "All Level" refers to subject areas such as music, art, and (soon) theatre, whose candidates are certified to teach early childhood through grade 12. At this point, none of these all-level certification areas desire such a minor. Instead they prefer that the courses be listed on their own degree plans.

⁺ In order to be eligible to participate in the QUEST 3 Student Teaching Program, the student must have a degree in an approved certification area taught at the high school level in the state of Texas.

- meet all benchmarks outlined on the Education Minor Degree Plan;
- meet benchmarks for Student Teaching (QUEST 3);
- successfully complete Student Teaching (QUEST 3) requirements; and
- meet the requirements for the major in the area of certification.

Although as indicated above, the Education Minor appears in the current and past Undergraduate Catalogs, for unknown reasons formal use of the minor itself has not occurred for several years. Instead, while secondary students interested in a teaching certificate have been advised to take a series of courses for the most part identical to those in the proposed education minor, students do not receive a minor designation on either their degree plan or on their transcript. Adoption of UC 9768 08F will correct these problems and also define a standard course sequence that will facilitate better communication and coordination among students, major advisors in the student's college, and education advisors.

Recommendation

The Committee supports the College of Education's request to modify the education minor for secondary students.