



ACADEMIC ALERT #2007-06

DATE: March 2007
DECISION: National College of Education (NCE)

Revised General Education Requirements for M.A.T. Elementary Education

Rationale

The general education requirements for M.A.T. Elementary Education have been revised to be consistent with the requirements set forth by the Association for Childhood Education International [ACEI] the specialized professional area that recognizes M.A.T. ELE. These ACEO requirements indicate: programs must have a broad foundation in the sciences, humanities [including the fine arts] and social sciences, with advanced study in at least one specialty area. The ACEI requirements specifically reference reading, communication, reflection on information and experience, literature, healthy lifestyles, mathematical tasks, natural sciences, social sciences, cultural differences, the arts, and technology. There is no requirement for philosophy. There is no requirement for a specific level of mathematical understanding. There is no specificity to the required specialty area.

The Illinois State Board of Education has changed their policies and has left the general education requirements in the hands of the individual institutions with approved teacher education programs.

Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: March 15, 2007
Faculty Senate Approval: Point of Information; Not Required
Provost Approval: Point of Information; Not Required

Program Authorizations: The M.A.T. Elementary Education (ELE) is authorized to be offered in the following Illinois Regions: Chicago; North Suburban; West Suburban; South Metropolitan; Fox Valley; Central; Prairie and Western.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Spring Quarter 2007 (April 2, 2007). Students who apply on or after this date will be responsible for the revised general education requirements per this academic alert.

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SIGNATURE

Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost

Summary of Revisions

Requirement for 2 SH of philosophy has been eliminated.

Rationale – this is not required by ACEI and is no longer a requirement from ISBE for general education knowledge. Students in the undergraduate Elementary Education program do not have a philosophy requirement among the general education requirements they complete.

The 18 SH discipline areas are expanded to include social work, communications, and business.

Rationale – The ACEI position is “Elementary teachers must be prepared with the knowledge, skills, values, techniques to interact successfully with children, parents, guardians, colleagues, administrators, social agencies and others who affect children’s lives.”

Candidates who have completed degrees in the three areas named above have had experiences that have prepared them in these areas. The final preparation comes from the coursework and experiences in the MAT program. These assist candidates in making the transition from their former major to the elementary education classroom.

The business majors are accounting and finance due to their significant links to understanding central mathematical concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the content. Business majors in marketing and advertising are closely linked with the same types of understandings in communications.

Old General Education Requirements	SH	Revised General Education Requirements	SH
Communications	2	Communications	2
Biological or Physical Science	2	Biological or Physical Science	2
History	2	History	2
Global/Multicultural	2	Global/Multicultural	2
Social Science	2	Social Science	2
Literature	2	Literature	2
Philosophy	2	Philosophy Eliminated	0
Arts	2	Arts	2
Mathematics	2*	Mathematics	2*
*prerequisites for MHE 480B are 6sh of mathematics, college algebra level and above	6	*prerequisites for MHE 480B are 6sh of mathematics, college algebra level and above	6

Additional Study in One Discipline	SH	Additional Study in One Discipline	SH
	18*		18*
American Government		American Government	
Anthropology		Anthropology	
Art		Art	
Biological Science		Biological Science	
		Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting • Finance 	
		Communications	
Dance		Dance	

Economics		Economics	
English		English	
Foreign Language		Foreign Language	
Geography		Geography	
History		History	
Linguistics		Linguistics	
Literature		Literature	
Mathematics		Mathematics	
Music		Music	
Philosophy		Philosophy	
Physical Science		Physical Science	
Political Science		Political Science	
Psychology		Psychology	
		Social Work	
Sociology		Sociology	
Theater Arts		Theater Arts	

**9 SH must be upper level courses*

Implementation

Students must be properly advised.

ELE faculty must work with the Vice Provost and the Assistant Registrar for Schedules and Catalog to ensure that catalog copy is correctly prepared and ready for the next catalog.