



ACADEMIC ALERT #2007-28

DATE: December 2007

DECISION: National College of Education (NCE)

M.A.T. Secondary Education; Change in Special Education Electives

RATIONALE:

As of spring 2007, NLU's Special Education Program offers courses leading to limited LBS I approval/endorsement. The LBS I approval is valid for 3 years only. The approval/endorsement is applied for through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) at the Regional Superintendent's Office of the county in which the student applies. Before its expiration date, if teachers want to continue teaching students with disabilities, they need to transition to LBS I endorsement. They do this by passing the LBS I exam.

Secondary Education students who take the four (4) courses below with SPE 527 as their final, capstone course are eligible for this approval through the state of Illinois added on to their Secondary Education Teaching Certificate. With these four (4) courses, if they also pass the LBS I exam, they can earn a Special Education endorsement through the state of Illinois.

Course Number	Course Title	SH
SPE 500	Introduction to Exceptional Children and Adolescents	3
SPE 501	Educational Diagnostic Assessment of Exceptional Children and Adolescents	3
SPE 506	Frameworks and Perspectives in Special Education	3
SPE 527	Individualized Curriculum and Instruction	3

Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: December 20, 2007

Faculty Senate Approval: Point of Information; Not Needed

Provost Approval: Point of Information; Not Needed

Program Authorizations: The M.A.T. Secondary Education Program is authorized to be offered in the following Illinois Regions: Chicago, North Suburban, West Suburban, South Metropolitan, Fox Valley, Central, Prairie, and Western. The M.A.T. Secondary Education Program is also authorized to be offered at NLU campuses in Wisconsin, and Florida.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Winter 2008

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SIGNATURE

Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.

Vice Provost

Description

Students in the Secondary Education certification program already take SPE 500 Introduction to Exceptional Children and Adolescents (3 SH) as part of their cluster coursework. If they take two other courses— SPE 501 Educational Diagnostic Assessment of Exceptional Children and Adolescents (3 SH) and SPE 506 Frameworks and Perspectives in Special Education (3 SH) required for the approval/endorsement as electives—they will be short only one course. That fourth course is the capstone course, SPE 527 Individualized Curriculum and Instruction (3 SH) which is meant to be taken last in order to be eligible for their approval in Special Education. Since most students who take the Special Education electives are interested in becoming qualified to teach Special Education, it would make sense for them to take the required courses that lead to the approval, and if they pass the LBS I exam to the endorsement

Students in Secondary Education take two elective courses outside of their clusters in one of four areas: ESL, Middle Level, Reading, or Special Education. Students choosing the Special Education strand of electives previously had three courses from which to choose their two electives: SPE 507 Social/Emotional Development Teaching and Support, SPE 509 Clinical Literacy (two courses that are not required for the approval/endorsement, and SPE 527 Individualized Curriculum and Instruction, the capstone course.

Offering only two courses as electives makes the process clearer to students.

Previous choices (two of the following):	SPE 507 (3sh)	SPE 509 (3sh)	SPE 527 (3sh)
Current Elective courses:	SPE 501(3sh)	SPE 506 (3sh)	Additional capstone course required in order to obtain an approval in Special Education or LBSI endorsement

IMPLEMENTATION

All changes need to be entered in Banner and CAPP.

Marketing materials need to be developed and the revised curriculum added to NLU's website.

The new catalog copy will be written and submitted to the Vice Provost and Assistant Registrar for Schedules and Catalogs to ensure that catalog copy is prepared and ready for the next catalog, 2008-2009.