Elementary Education BS

College of Education

OSU-Cascades

Executive Summary

OSU-Cascades is proposing a four-year BS undergraduate degree in Elementary Education that will result in licensure from the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC). This program is designed to complement our existing Master of Arts in Teaching (licensure) graduate program and to specifically recruit a diverse teacher workforce from Central Oregon while addressing the anticipated teacher shortage in Oregon. Students will select one of three emphasis areas that are considered high need in both Central Oregon and the nation: English as a Second Language; Special Education; or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Students will complete one course in each of the three emphasis areas as a foundational part of their core coursework and take an additional two courses in one area. The program requirement will result in 9 credits that can support future endorsement completion and/or job placement.

This program meets two needs: producing qualified teachers to meet the upcoming teacher shortage, and a mechanism to increase the diversity of the teacher workforce. In California in 2012-13, the number of enrollees entering teacher preparation programs since 2008 has dropped by 60%. Similar patterns were seen in Oregon. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-newton/where-have-all-the-teache_1_b_8215602.html). This decrease in enrollments in teacher education programs is compounded by an aging teacher workforce. In the next five years, it is anticipated that nearly 33% of current teachers will retire. This confluence of events will result in a teacher shortage. In addition, there is a current mismatch between Central Oregon teacher demographics and the students they serve. The Latino population doubled from 2010 to 2014 and now represents over 8% of the Deschutes County population. That growth is anticipated to continue to grow through 2028 when 24% of all Oregon high school graduates will be Latino. At the same time, only 5% of the teachers in Central Oregon represent an ethnic minority. A four-year undergraduate program is more closely aligned to the needs of underrepresented populations that wish to teach than the existing MAT program.