

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Elementary Middle Education (BSE) Majors and Minors, 2022-2023

Date: 3/9/2023

In Attendance : Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Lana Collet-Klingenberg(Education & Prof. Studies); Assistant Dean Kelli Danielski; Department Chair/Program Coordinator Lucy Heimer/Yao Fu; faculty and staff in the Elementary Education program; Program Review Team Chair Karl Brown; Program Review team members Andrea Ednie, Kim Kostka, Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

Review Team: This program has steady enrollments to serve a strong need in the state for its graduates, responds professionally to changes dictated by the DPI, identifies areas of improvement and follows up to make those improvements through action plans. The program's work to get student-teachers in the classroom earlier in their courses of study and exposed to education classes as early as their first semester is well-considered and admirable. We noted a number of HIPs included in the curriculum, be sure to include those in your next review. Pending DPI approval of their assessment plan for the upcoming five years, the program will have significant work to do in implementing this plan.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – The work required to transition to the new program will require significant coordination and commitment from stakeholders across the department and beyond. What have the discussions been at the department level in terms of creating a plan to complete this work, for example, what are the tasks, timeline, and who will be involved in completing this work?

Response: DPI has approved the revised Elementary Education licensure program. The revised program will be offered starting in Fall 2023. There will be a significant amount of work over the next year to offer the new track while maintaining the current course of study for those already enrolled. Advisor training will take place to help prepare for the new 4-degree system. In addition to aligning with DPI licensure requirements, the new program reduced credits to graduation, expanded license options, and offers grades K-9 license instead of grades 1-8.

2 – The program reported 40% of students do not pass the WIFOR exam, could this be an indication that students are not receiving the preparation they need to be successful on this exam?

Response: The program is aware and reflective of their students' performance on this required licensure exam. They offer a 1-credit course designed to help students pass the exam. Additionally, the exam content is covered in other courses, and study guides and cut scores are shared with instructors and

students in preparing for the exam. Students who fail the WIFOR can reach out to the department for help on retaking the exam.

The program also noted that the exam was designed for reading specialists and not elementary education generalists. Therefore, they include other measures to ensure their candidates meet the program's student learning outcomes.

3 – What work has the program done to investigate reasons for the increasing DFW rate? Do you have any ideas why the rate is increasing, and if curricular changes are needed to help students be more successful in upper-division coursework?

Response: The courses in the program do not have significant DFW rates. The data reported was for the College and not broken down by major.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

These goals around transitioning to the new program are large and will require significant coordination and commitment from stakeholders across the department and beyond. Create a more specific set of goals, related tasks, and people involved to guide the process.

Recommended Action #2

Complete transition to new assessment plan. Specifically, integrating the signature assignments that have already been developed as outlined in the assessment plan. Report how data from the embedded assessments are used to improve student learning.

Recommended Action #3

Improve students' performance on the WIFOR exam. Note specific actions taken to address student learning in this area.

Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns

Next Self-study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2028, and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2028

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.