




TO: The Administrative Boards of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences

From: Bill McDiarmid, Dean 

RE: Request to approve CAS courses for the Undergraduate Minor in Education

DATE: February 14, 2013

I am writing to update you on the tremendous success thus far of the undergraduate minor in education which officially began admitting students in Fall 2012 (see attached update) and to request the approval of the following courses from the College of Arts and Sciences:

- COMM 318: Cultural Diversity
- ENGL 290: Children's Picture Books: Texts and Illustrations
- HIST 367: North Carolina History since 1865
- PLCY 530: Educational Problems and Policy Solutions

We have attached letters and communication of support from the Chairs of these departments. Please contact me or Associate Dean Deborah Eaker Rich (eakeric@email.unc.edu) should you have questions about this request or desire further information about the current status of the undergraduate minor in education.

We continue to be excited about this work and our collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences. The students are extraordinary and inspiring. They, like us, appreciate your consideration of these courses as minor offerings.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Education

*Update to the Administrative Boards of the General College and
the College of Arts and Sciences
on the*
Undergraduate Minor in Education

After approval by the Administrative Boards in September 2011, the School of Education began to advertise and accept students officially into the undergraduate minor in education beginning Fall 2012. Professor George Noblit was appointed as director of the minor and we were able to hire a graduate student TA to assist with the administration and scheduled activities. In addition to these individuals, the minor students are advised by the undergraduate advisor in our Office of Student Affairs who has office hours in Steele Building as well as the School of Education.

In Spring 2012, we opened an online application (see *Appendix A*) which resulted in 80+ applications. A faculty committee reviewed these applications and admitted 40 students to begin in Fall 2012. We had a second application cycle in October 2012 which was preceded by an informational “open house” for any interested undergraduate student. This informational session was advertised on our website, through various print venues on campus and through social media. After the October 2012 application cycle, we admitted an additional 63 students for a total of 103 students, 8 of whom will be graduating in May of 2013. Our intention is to admit students each Fall into the minor and have a relatively stable cohort size of approximately 50 students per year.

When the Administrative Boards first reviewed the proposal for the minor, there was concern about the need to initiate new courses for the minor. We were fortunate to have a bit of private funding to incentivize faculty in a competitive proposal process. That process resulted in 10 new courses (plus the capstone course) for the minor, six of which have been offered during 2012-13 and the other four of which will be offered in Fall 2013. The capstone course will be offered each semester; the other education courses for the minor (both new and those approved at the time of the proposal) will likely be offered on a biennial basis. We plan on issuing another call for minor course proposals in Spring 2013 so that we might add a few more new courses to the minor offerings through the School of Education. (A full description of all courses for the minor can be found at <http://soe.unc.edu/academics/education-minor/courses.php>). All courses are designed and taught by full-time faculty of the School of Education. Course syllabi are reviewed and approved through the normal School of Education curricular policies.

We continue to have student involvement in advising our director and faculty in the minor and, as such, believe this involvement has resulted in (1) great interest in the

education minor and (2) courses that are engaging and popular among minor students. The courses that have been offered during 2012-2013 have had no fewer than 22 students enrolled (except for the capstone which currently enrolls 9 students).

As stated in our original proposal, the five-course minor is intended to provide opportunities for undergraduates to

- Investigate current schooling, community, and policy directions including charter schools and vouchers, school reform models, and private initiatives;
- Develop the capacity to think critically about current educational issues and participate knowledgeably and productively in public debates about these issues;
- Observe and work in schools and other educational settings (e.g., museums and community-based programs, non-profits, and governmental organizations);
- Make connections with other disciplines as possible and integrate perspectives from a student's major with the courses taken in the Education Minor.

We believe that we are making an excellent beginning in providing students with these opportunities. Students will be asked to evaluate their experiences and make suggestions for improvements and CAS course additions as they progress through the program and upon their completion of the minor. We look forward to hearing their suggestions and continuing to provide what is an exciting and important area of study and engaged scholarship for the undergraduates at UNC-CH. For more general information on the minor, please see the website link at <http://soe.unc.edu/academics/education-minor/index.php>

Appendix A

Application for the Undergraduate Minor in Education

Please complete the form below to apply to the minor in education. Accepted applicants will be sent a list of courses to be offered which will apply to the minor. Email any questions to Dr. Deborah Eaker Rich (eakerric@email.unc.edu). (Note: Education majors are not eligible for the minor in education. The minor takes a minimum of three semesters to complete so the fall of your junior year is the latest you should apply). We recommend that you apply by March 10th, 2012.

Name

PID

Major

Email address

Current Standing (i.e., First Year, etc)

Student in Good Standing (Yes/No)

Expected Graduation

Area of Interest

Statement of Purpose

Please attach a one-page statement (Word document or pdf) of your reasons for pursuing a minor in Education.

Important! Be sure to include your full name and PID at the top of the document. The file must be named in the following format: LastFirstPID, i.e., SmithJohn 123456789



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February 7, 2013

Deborah Eaker-Rich, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Director of Graduate Studies
101 Peabody Hall
Campus Box #3500
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3500

RE: Undergraduate Minor in Education

Dear Dr. Eaker-Rich:

I write in support of the recently established Undergraduate Minor in Education within the School of Education.

This new undergraduate minor has the support of the Department of Communication Studies faculty. Our department also supports the use of our class:

COMM 318: Cultural Diversity

as an option in this program. We believe this new minor will attract outstanding Carolina undergraduates and will also help us recruit outstanding high school students who are interested in educational issues to the University.

We can support the program with our existing faculty and staff resources.

Regards,

Michael S. Waltman
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Communication Studies



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of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
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February 18, 2013

Deborah Eaker-Rich, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Director of Graduate Studies
101 Peabody Hall
Campus Box #3500
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3500

RE: Undergraduate Minor in Education

Dear Dr. Eaker-Rich:

I write in support of the recently established Undergraduate Minor in Education within the School of Education.

This new undergraduate minor has the support of the Department of English faculty. Our department also supports the use of our class:

ENGL 290: Children's Picture Books: Texts and Illustrations

as an option in this program. We believe this new minor will attract outstanding Carolina undergraduates and will also help us recruit outstanding high school students who are interested in educational issues to the University.

We can support the program with our existing faculty and staff resources.

Sincerely,

Beverly Taylor
Department Chair

From: Kramer, Lloyd S
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 5:47 PM
To: Eaker-Rich, Deborah J
Subject: RE: Request on behalf of Dean Bill McDiarmid: SECOND REQUEST

Deb,

I thank you for this note and the information, which I confess I must have missed in mid-December. But I'm pleased to know about this developing Undergraduate minor and I'm glad to see that a history course could be included. This is a regularly offered class and it would make a good addition to the course work of anyone who might be going out to teach in North Carolina. So I would be happy to support this proposal. Our usual instructor in this course, Jim Leloudis, is himself a big supporter of education and public schools, so I feel confident that he would be supportive of including this course in an education minor. I'm happy to support this plan.

Best, Lloyd

Sent on behalf of Dean Bill McDiarmid, School of Education:

Dear Dr. Kramer:

With the encouragement of the Chancellor, the School of Education has recently developed an Undergraduate Minor in Education that is already creating excitement across the Carolina campus. Because of the excellence of the students who have applied, we overenrolled during the first year (2012-2013) and anticipate that we will have 50+ undergraduates enrolled in the minor as of Fall 2013. This minor offers undergraduates opportunities to investigate current schooling practices and recent innovations, critically examine policy debates and directions, understand learning — including their own—as a complex socio-cultural as well as cognitive process, observe and intern in schools and other educational settings, and make connections between courses in their major and the Education Minor.

We would like to include the following classes as options for the minor:

HIST 367: North Carolina History since 1865

Attached is a draft letter of support that we are hopeful that you would be willing to submit. Please contact us if you have questions or would like more information about the minor and this request.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



G. Williamson McDiarmid
Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor of Education



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February 7, 2013

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SUDHANSHU HANDA, PH.D.
Professor of Public Policy

RE: Undergraduate Minor in Education

Dear Dr. Eaker-Rich:

I write in support of the recently established Undergraduate Minor in Education within the School of Education. This new undergraduate minor has the support of the Department of Public Policy faculty. Our department also supports the use of our class **PLCY 530: Educational Problems and Policy Solutions** as an option in this program. We believe this new minor will attract outstanding Carolina undergraduates and will also help us recruit outstanding high school students who are interested in educational issues to the University.

We will make every effort to support the program with our existing faculty and staff resources.

Sincerely,

Sudhanshu Handa
Professor and Chair

Copy: Dr. Krista Perreira, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept. of Public Policy
Dr. Doug Lauen, course instructor, PLCY 530