

**New Program Proposal  
Bachelor of Arts  
Elementary Education  
USC-Beaufort**

USC-Beaufort requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education to be implemented in Fall 2013.

The Program Planning Summary was submitted to the Commission on November 1, 2011, and reviewed and voted upon favorably without substantive comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) on January 19, 2012. The proposed program was approved by the University of South Carolina's Board of Trustees on April 4, 2012. The proposal was submitted to the Commission on May 1, 2012.

According to the proposal, the purpose of the program is to provide elementary teachers to the USCB service area of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. Officials in these local school districts have indicated they will continue to face a teacher shortage as a result of teacher retirements over the next five to ten years combined with a shrinking pool of education graduates willing to work in the poorer, more rural school districts in South Carolina. USC-Columbia terminated the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program in Elementary Education on the USCB campus on May 15, 2011. This terminated program provided 20-25 elementary education teachers annually to these high-need school districts. The proposal quotes data from the Occupational Supply Demand System (OSDS) website indicating the demand for occupations in elementary education is expected to grow nationally by 15.8% from 2008-2018 and the growth is expected to be 19.2% in South Carolina.

The proposal states that there are a number of baccalaureate level elementary education degree programs in both public and private higher education institutions in SC, but there are no elementary education teacher preparation programs within a reasonable commuting distance from the USCB service area that residents can attend to earn this degree. The *Program Inventory of Programs available at South Carolina Higher Education Institutions* shows ten public institutions (Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, Lander, South Carolina State, USC-Columbia, USC-Aiken, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop) and 15 private institutions (Anderson, Bob Jones, Claflin, Limestone, Benedict, Charleston Southern, Coker, Columbia College, Converse, Erskine, Furman, Morris, North Greenville, Presbyterian, and Southern Wesleyan) that offer a baccalaureate degree in elementary education. According to the proposal, students in the USC-Beaufort regional school districts (Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton 1, Hampton 2) would a minimum three-hour daily commute to attend the closest institutions offering an elementary education degree.

The institution anticipates there will be 15 new students (16.4 FTE) in the program's first year, increasing to 16 students (17.4 FTE) in the second year, 17 students (18.6 FTE) in the third year, 18 students (19.9 FTE) in the fourth year, and further increasing to 19 students (20.8 FTE) in the fifth year of the program. If enrollment and program completion projections are met, the proposed program will meet the Commission's productivity standards. According to the proposal, these estimates are based on the number of students who indicated an interest in an Elementary Education major from surveys of current Early Childhood majors and the increased yearly enrollment at USC-Beaufort.

Admission to the proposed program will require an earned 2.0 cumulative GPA on the defined preparatory units and score of at least 800 on the combined math and verbal SAT or 17 on the ACT to be admitted into USC-Beaufort. According to the proposal, in order to be admitted into the Professional Program, students must submit an application during the semester the student completes 46-55 credit hours of undergraduate study. Criteria for admission into the proposed Elementary Education program include obtaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in all undergraduate coursework; completing all Pre-Professional courses with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a grade of C or better; earning grades of C or better in English 101 and 102, Speech Communications, and Math 221 and 222; earning passing scores on all three sections of the Praxis I Test; passing a Criminal Background Check; completing a Professional Program Interview and Disposition Statement; and receiving approval by the USC-Beaufort Professional Education Committee.

The curriculum for the proposed program in Elementary Education will consist of a total of 125 credit hours. The proposed program includes 53 credit hours in general education, 27 credit hours in Pre-Professional Education courses, 30 credit hours in the Elementary Education major, and 15 credit hours in the clinical internship. Eleven new courses will be added to the institution's catalog. The focus of the new courses will be Elementary Education (Organization & Management of the Diverse Classroom; Curriculum Planning, Development and Assessment in the Elementary School; Reading Methods and Assessment for the Early Grades; Reading Methods and Assessment for the Intermediate Grades; Language Arts in the Elementary School; Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School; Teaching Science in the Elementary School; Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School; Teaching Fine Arts in the Elementary School; Teaching Health & Physical Education in the Elementary School; and Application of Teaching Methods & Assessment in the Elementary School: Practica I & II).

The proposed program's assessment plan consists of course examinations, research papers, grading rubrics, internship and student teacher evaluations by university supervisors and mentor teachers in the school districts, Clinical Internship Portfolio on LiveText, and passing scores on the Praxis II, and PLT exams. Additional assessments in the proposed Elementary Education program consist of eight assessments required for national recognition in the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) and accreditation in the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Faculty for the proposed program will be drawn from existing faculty currently teaching in the in the undergraduate program in Early Childhood Education. Currently, five faculty members (4.75 FTE) are on staff in the Early Childhood program and will deliver coursework in the proposed program. According to the proposal, as the program grows, two adjunct faculty members may be hired. Adjunct faculty will have a minimum of a Master's degree in the teaching field. According to the proposal, the institution does not predict hiring any new tenure-track, full-time faculty.

The proposal states that no new space or facilities are needed for the proposed program. The proposal further states that the program will utilize classrooms on campuses at both the Historic Beaufort Campus and the Hilton Head Gateway Campus and these facilities are adequate for the first five years of the proposed program. According to the proposal, there will be no additional physical plant requirements or equipment needed during the first five years of the proposed program.

Two subject specific analyses were performed comparing the *Resources for College Libraries (RCL)* to the library collection currently at USC-Beaufort. The results of this comparison showed that USC-Beaufort only had 37% of the RCL recommended titles in the area of Elementary Education. The current annual budget for library materials at USC-Beaufort is slightly over \$200,000. However, the amount budgeted in the area of education is \$8,000. This budgeted amount will allow USC-Beaufort to add approximately 131 books per year to support the proposed program.

The proposed program will be subject to accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and national recognition by the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). Additionally, the proposed program will have to demonstrate to State Department of Education officials discipline-specific objectives as articulated in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the South Carolina's Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) program. All students completing the Elementary Education program must be certified by the South Carolina State Department of Education, pass the appropriate Praxis II and Principles of Teaching and Learning examinations, and undergo an FBI background check.

The proposal states that articulation agreements and stronger relationships will be developed with the Technical College System, including the neighboring Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) once the proposed elementary education program is in place.

Costs and sources of financing identified by the institution for the proposed program are shown below.

<b>ESTIMATED NEW COSTS BY YEAR</b>						
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Program Administration	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$19,500
Faculty Salaries	\$169,235	\$169,235	\$169,235	\$169,235	\$169,235	\$846,173
Graduate Students	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Clerical/Support Personnel	\$12,215	\$12,215	\$12,215	\$12,215	\$12,215	\$61,075
Supplies and Materials	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$2,500
Library Resources*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment	\$1,200	0	0	0	0	\$1,200
Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (Identify)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$187,050</b>	<b>\$185,850</b>	<b>\$185,850</b>	<b>\$185,850</b>	<b>\$185,850</b>	<b>\$930,450</b>
<b>SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR</b>						
Tuition Funding	\$78,861	\$141,869	\$208,862	\$279,707	\$327,086	\$1,036,430
Program-Specific Fees State Funding	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reallocation of Existing Funds*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funding (specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$78,861</b>	<b>\$141,869</b>	<b>\$208,862</b>	<b>\$279,707</b>	<b>\$327,086</b>	<b>\$1,036,430</b>

*\* Library resources will be covered by tuition revenue. The program will use the same facilities, administrative and clerical support, faculty and staff as the Early Childhood Education program.*

According to the information provided by the institution, the proposed program will be able to cover costs beginning in the third year and thereafter.

In summary, USC-Beaufort proposes to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education on both the Historic Beaufort and Hilton Head Gateway campuses of USC-Beaufort. The proposed program will provide graduates with the skills necessary to be successful in teaching students in grades 3-6 and provide highly qualified elementary teachers for the high-poverty areas in the USC-Beaufort region.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelors of Arts degree in Elementary Education at USC-Beaufort, to be implemented in Fall 2013, provided that 1) no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested; 2) the program be approved by the State Board of Education prior to implementation; and 3) the program seek appropriate national recognition for elementary education by the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI).