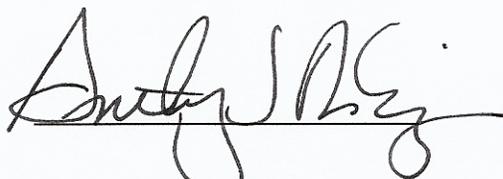


**Program Planning Summary
Program Modification**

**Master of Education in Special Education
Adding Off-Campus Location in
Charlotte, NC**

Winthrop University

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. DiGiorgio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the letters.

**Anthony J. DiGiorgio
President**

November 2008

Contact Information:

Karen C. Jones
Assistant VP Academic Affairs
803.323.3708
jonesk@winthrop.edu

**Winthrop University
MEd in Special Education**

Classification: Program Modification to offer on-campus program at an off-site location

Name of Program Modified: Master of Education in Special Education

Academic Unit: College of Education: Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Proposed Date of Implementation: Spring 2009

CIP Code: 131 001

Site: Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Facility

Delivery Mode: A blend of traditional instruction as well as on-line instruction will be utilized for this program as is the case for students enrolled in the on-campus program offering.

Request for Modification

This request is to offer Winthrop University's NCATE approved MEd in Special Education in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, per their request. This will entail Winthrop faculty delivering the entire master's degree program in Charlotte, NC (approximately 22 miles from campus). Therefore, Winthrop University requests CHE approval for offering more than 50% of the coursework off-campus at a facility supported and owned by the Charlotte Mecklenburg School District.

Purposes and objectives of the program

The purpose of the program is to meet the needs of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The COE at Winthrop University will deliver a full program helping the schools to improve teaching and learning for special needs students in the school district. The program offerings and objectives are identical to those of the on-campus program.

Program Demand and Productivity

This off-campus program is requested by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, a large neighboring school system facing a shortage of fully-certified special education teachers. This program modification will help them better meet the needs of special education students in their district.

Need for Proposed Changes

This program modification comes as a result of a request from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District. They, as is the case with many school districts, have a shortage of fully certified special education teachers. The school district also believes in the process of continuous professional development. The program delivered is the same as offered on the Winthrop campus. Although there may be other programs similar in North and South Carolina, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools approached the College of

Education at Winthrop, and we are pleased to seek approval to accommodate their needs and request.

Centrality of the Program Modification to the Mission of the University

The mission of Winthrop University, as a four-year college within the state, is consistent with that proposed by the state legislature—to focus on economic development and life-long learning. In conjunction with this mission, Winthrop University offers both graduate and undergraduate degrees, including the Master of Education in Special Education which leads to further opportunities in employment and continuing professional development. Furthermore, the mission statement of Winthrop University states that, “The University provides personalized and challenging undergraduate, graduate and continuing professional education programs of national caliber within a context dedicated to public service.” This program modification falls within this framework. In addition, goal 6 of the Winthrop University *2008-2009 Vision of Distinction* is to “enhance the role of graduate education in the region.”

Relationship of the Proposed Program to Others at Winthrop University

The College of Education at Winthrop University has a rich history of providing a high quality education for prospective teachers, counselors and school administrators. The COE has accomplished this through undergraduate and graduate education programs.

Cooperation and Inter-Institutional Relationships

This program modification request is to offer the MEd in Special Education at an off campus site in Charlotte, NC. The program will be the same in all cases to that offered on campus. There are five other IHE’s in South Carolina that offer the MEd in Special Education. All of these programs are similar in that they are designed to meet SC CHE and NCATE standards. UNCC also offers a MEd in Special Education. Both UNCC and Winthrop are NCATE accredited. Special Education is a critical needs certification area in both South Carolina <http://www.scstudentloan.org/criticalsubjectareas.aspx> and North Carolina.

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/recruitment/surveys/vacancy/2007vacancyreport.pdf>

We thus need more programs such as this to meet the needs of the region.

Enrollment/Admissions Criteria (same as for on-campus students)

To be eligible for admission to the Master of Education degree program in Special Education, the applicant, along with meeting the general **requirements for admission** to graduate study at Winthrop University, must:

1. Submit a verified copy of a current South Carolina Department of Education Class III Certificate or the equivalent from another state;
2. Submit a verified copy of the Specialty Area test of the PRAXIS Examination for the current area of certification or the South Carolina Teaching Area Examination;

Winthrop: Modification to offer MEd in Special Education at off-site location

3. Pass a writing sample examination administered by the faculty members in the special education program. Call the College of Education at 803-323-2151 to schedule an appointment; and
4. Have an undergraduate grade-point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 hours of the graduate candidate's undergraduate course work or an official score of 900 or above on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (verbal and quantitative portions).

Projected Total Enrollment

There will be 14 Charlotte-Mecklenburg teachers in the cohort representing new enrollment and a program total CHP of 504. At the present time there are no plans to enroll another cohort in the MEd SPED Program at an off-campus site in Charlotte.

CURRICULUM

Professional Core:

EDUC 640 Educational Research, Design and Analysis
EDUC 670 Schooling in American Society
EDUC 681 Advanced Educational Psychology

Specialty Studies:

SPED 561 – Characteristics of Children with Learning Disabilities
SPED 613 – Issues and Trends in Special Education
SPED 671 – Advanced Educational Assessment in Special Education
SPED 663 – Advanced Study of Methods for Teaching Exceptional Students
SPED 618 – Lifelong Integration
SPED 694 – Advanced Studies in Special Education
SPED 562 – Educational Procedures for Learning Disabilities
READ - Designated Elective in Reading
EDUC 644 – Strategies of Assistive Technology

Faculty

No new faculty will be required for this program modification. This cohort of students is taught by the same faculty members that teach the on-campus students. A list of faculty teaching in the program is attached.

Institutional Plan for Faculty Development

Tenure-track faculty members receive three credit hours reassigned to do scholarship per year. All tenure-track faculty members can apply for institutional funds to support faculty development (i.e., travel to make scholarly presentations) and scholarship (research, curriculum projects, etc.). In addition, supplemental departmental funds are available to support faculty members' research, travel, and curriculum needs, and the department has been generous with its contributions in the past several years.

Assessment

The Master of Education in Special Education has key assignments throughout the program that assess candidate learning and performance-based outcomes. The individual candidates develop a proposal to improve K-12 student learning, write a grant to help fund the effort (some of which actually are funded), implement the instructional program, and analyze and reflect on the results. This mega-project crosses four terms and culminates with a portfolio and in-class presentation. The presentations are also given as workshops in their schools and many are submitted for conferences. All results of the MEd SPED key assessments are collected and analyzed through the College of Education Unit Assessment System.

Unit Administration/Faculty/Staff Support

There are no changes in the administration and faculty/staff support due to the offering of the degree program off-campus.

Physical Plant

The Program will not require any additional space or physical plant accommodations by Winthrop University. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will be responsible for all building related requirements at the site.

Equipment

No new equipment will be required. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will be responsible for all equipment needed for the program.

Library Resources

The program will not require any new library resources. Students in the off-campus program will have access to the same resources as students on campus.

Accreditation, Approval, Licensure, or Certification

The College of Education at Winthrop has received approval from the University of North Carolina General Administration to offer this program in Charlotte. The MEd in Special Education is approved through the normal Winthrop NCATE/STATE/CHE review.

New Costs to the Institution and Sources of Financing

The program is entirely self-sufficient and will be fully funded by revenues generated by off-campus enrollments in the program.

Institutional Approval

Off-campus programs require approval of the Chair of the Department that will manage the program, the Dean of the College, the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, and the President of the University.