

New Program Proposal
Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education
South Carolina State University

Summary

South Carolina State University (SCSU) requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Level Education to be implemented in January 2006.

The proposal was approved by the SCSU Board of Trustees on May 13, 2005, and submitted for Commission review on May 16, 2005. The proposal was reviewed with substantive comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) at its meeting on September 29, 2005. Comments included concern regarding the qualifications of faculty serving as field experience supervisors at Felton Laboratory School, and lack of clarity in the proposal regarding possible faculty overloads required for delivery of the program. The proposal was voted upon favorably by ACAP, pending submission of a revised proposal clarifying the issues that were raised during the meeting. A revised proposal addressing the issues of concern was submitted to the Commission on September 30, 2005. The proposed program was also submitted for review and comment to the South Carolina Department of Education.

The purpose of the proposed program is to enable South Carolina to meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation by preparing “highly qualified” Middle Level teachers. Further, since SCSU educates more African-American teachers than any other higher education institution in South Carolina, the proposed program also makes a significant contribution to the diversity of the state’s teacher workforce.

In the coming years, Middle Level teachers in South Carolina must be both certified for Middle Level teaching and “highly qualified” in compliance with NCLB. All teachers in all schools who teach core academic subjects must be “highly qualified” by the end of the 2005-06 school year. “Highly qualified” Middle Level teachers must hold the appropriate South Carolina certification and demonstrate appropriate content knowledge. Further, by October 1, 2008, all teachers assigned to seventh and eighth grades must hold Middle Level certification in the subjects they are assigned to teach. Initial certification is based, in part, on completion of an approved Middle Level teacher training program.

Data also suggest a pending shortage of “highly qualified” Middle Level teachers, particularly historically under-represented minorities. For example, a 2004-05 survey of

teacher vacancies in South Carolina reported that 24 percent of all vacancies were in middle level subject areas. Notably, 337 first-year teachers who received alternative certification in South Carolina filled 32 percent of the middle grades position vacancies. Minorities represent slightly less than 17 percent of all teachers employed by South Carolina school districts, yet minorities represent 45 percent of the student population. Thus, the proposed program seeks to increase the representation of minority teachers in the state's educational system while addressing an anticipated overall shortage of Middle Level educators.

The proposed program will consist of 110-120 semester hours, including: 48-54 semester hours in General Education requirements; 44 semester hours in Professional Education; and 18-22 semester hours in a concentration area (English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, or Science). There are three new courses associated with the proposed program: EPSY 251 – Adolescent Growth and Development; MED 320 – The Teaching of Mathematics in Middle School; and SCED 320 – The Teaching of Science in Middle School. Candidates must complete a 150 hour field experience and 13 weeks of student teaching to complete the degree.

Similar programs in South Carolina include the Bachelor of Arts in Middle Level Education (or Junior High/Intermediate/Middle School Teacher Education) degree program offered at USC-Columbia, USC-Upstate, Coastal Carolina University, Presbyterian College and Bob Jones University. A Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education (or Junior High/Intermediate/Middle School Teacher Education) is offered at College of Charleston, Winthrop University, and Charleston Southern University. The S.C. Department of Education has awarded grants to a number of institutions to develop additional Middle Level programs with the goal of having programs at all teacher education institutions. Initial Middle Level certification is also available through M.A.T. programs at Clemson University.

The proposed program does not require the addition of new faculty, and the expertise to deliver the proposed program will come from three areas to deliver instruction in pedagogy, course content, and field supervision. Six faculty from the College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences, and one faculty member from the College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Technology will teach one course per year in Middle Level pedagogy (methods courses). One of these faculty will receive .25 FTE released time to coordinate the program's activities, assisted by the assignment of one staff member to perform administrative duties. Content courses in the proposed program (social studies, science, English language arts, mathematics) will be taught by existing faculty in their respective content area departments. Field experiences will be directed by six faculty Lecturers ("cooperating teachers") who are currently employed at the Felton Laboratory School. Each Lecturer has a Master's degree and has met requirements for Middle Level certification. Lecturers are responsible for the day-to-day supervision and guidance of candidates' field experiences, although they perform this

function under the direct supervision of SCSU full-time faculty. One additional faculty member may be hired during the second year of program implementation if projected enrollment trends are met.

Enrollment in year one is estimated at 15 FTE students, and is projected to grow to 30 FTE students in year five. If the enrollment projections are met, the program will meet current CHE program productivity standards.

The proposed program is subject to accreditation review by professional organizations including the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and its affiliated specialty associations including the National Middle School Association (NMSA), National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). Additionally, the program will demonstrate discipline-specific objectives as articulated in the South Carolina Curriculum Standards and South Carolina's ADEPT program.

There are no additional physical plant or equipment requirements for the proposed program. The M.F. Whittaker Library provides print and electronic resources. Internet-based curricular resources are provided by electronic link. Additionally, indexing and abstracting services available to support the Middle Level Education program and the new electronic databases are available through the South Carolina Virtual Library.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$15,100 in the first year, increasing to \$57,200 in the second year, increasing to \$58,300 in the third year, increasing to \$59,400 in the fourth year, and increasing to \$60,500 in the fifth year. Categories of costs over the first five years of the program's implementation include faculty salaries (\$210,000); library resources (\$7,000); and supplies and materials (\$7,000). Estimated new costs for the program during the first five years total \$255,500.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program in its first five years. Also shown are estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	\$45,920	\$0	\$45,920	\$0	\$32,074	\$32,074
Year 2	\$91,840	\$0	\$91,840	17,049	\$64,148	\$81,197
Year 3	\$91,840	\$0	\$91,840	34,098	\$64,148	\$98,246
Year 4	\$91,840	\$0	\$91,840	34,098	\$64,148	\$98,246
Year 5	\$91,840	\$0	\$91,840	34,098	\$64,148	\$98,246

These data demonstrate that if SCSU can meet projected student enrollment and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will cover new costs with revenues it generates by the third year.

In summary, SCSU will offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Level Education. Data support the need for the program in South Carolina which will allow students to obtain Middle Level teacher certification. The proposed program at SCSU will contribute to the placement of “highly qualified,” predominantly African-American Middle Level teachers and contribute to the increased effectiveness of South Carolina schools.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to a Bachelor’s degree in Middle Level Education at SCSU provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested and provided further that the program not be implemented until it has been approved by the State Board of Education.