

Program Planning Summary for the Proposal to Add a Bachelor of Arts in Biology Education at The Citadel

Proposed Date of Implementation: Spring 2009

Introduction

The Citadel's Department of Biology, in collaboration with the School of Education, is pleased to submit a Program Planning Summary for a new program: A Bachelor of Arts in Biology Education. We submit this planning summary following a very successful state and NCATE focus visit (September 30-October 2, 2007), and with the understanding that consideration of this proposed program is contingent upon a full accreditation ruling by NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board in April 2008.

Justification

The Citadel's Department of Biology in collaboration with the School of Education is proposing to reinstate a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology Education for the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. This degree will be designed specifically to prepare secondary school biology teachers with the content and pedagogy necessary to fill positions in this critical needs area. This effort to reestablish an undergraduate teacher preparation program in Biology is part of a larger initiative aimed at making The Citadel the recognized leader for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in South Carolina.

Recent national studies and reports indicate that erosion of educational programs in the STEM disciplines pose a serious threat to the economic competitiveness of our nation and region. One report in particular (*An American Imperative: Transforming the Recruitment, Retention, and Renewal of Our Nation's Mathematics and Science Teaching Workforce*) asserts that "we must act decisively today to recruit, retain, and renew exceptional mathematics and science teachers." It is—as part of a larger effort to enhance mathematics and science literacy in the region—that we seek to reestablish cadet secondary teacher preparation programs in Biology at The Citadel.

Background

Several years ago, in preparation for NCATE reaccreditation, the decision was made to drop the Bachelor of Arts in Education (Biology Specialization) degree. The primary reasons for this decision revolved around the low number of students enrolled in the program and the lack of proper assessment data. More recently, the School of Education and the Department of Biology-- recognizing the critical need for well-trained secondary school biology teachers—are committed to reinstating and expanding an

undergraduate teacher preparation program leading to certification as a secondary Biology teacher.

Duplication of Existing Programs

The College of Charleston offers a Secondary Education Minor that students majoring in Biology may elect. This is the only other undergraduate program in the South Carolina Lowcountry leading to certification of secondary school biology teachers. Our proposed B. A. in Biology Education at The Citadel is not duplicative of the College of Charleston minor in secondary education since the sole audience for this proposed teacher education program at the secondary level is selected members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets.

Relationship to Other Programs at The Citadel

The B.A. in Biology Education is designed to serve cadets who enter The Citadel with the purpose of becoming secondary school biology teachers. In addition, this program will provide an additional option to cadets who initially decide to major in Biology. The course sequence will be easily adaptable for these students so that they will complete their degree requirements within the same timeframe as students who initially enroll in the program.

Relationship with Other Institutions

The Citadel School of Education and Department of Biology have long standing cooperative relationships with their colleagues at The College of Charleston. Citadel cadets are prohibited from taking courses at other institutions during the Fall and Spring semesters, however, cadets take courses at The College of Charleston during summer school and College of Charleston students enroll in The Citadel's summer school courses. This benefits students at both institutions by allowing greater flexibility in scheduling during the summer months.

New Costs for Program Implementation

The proposed new program will consist primarily of courses currently offered at The Citadel with the exception of two new courses: 1) Methods and Applications of Science; and 2) Introduction to Earth Science. These new offerings will be taught by current staff and will not require additional faculty lines. Laboratory material costs will be funded by normal student laboratory fees.

Summary

The Citadel's Department of Biology and School of Education propose to "reestablish" an undergraduate teacher preparation program in Biology for the secondary level for members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets. This new program is part of a

larger Citadel initiative designed at enhancing teaching and learning of the STEM disciplines in the Lowcountry and beyond.

Date

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Dean of the School of Education at The Citadel

Date

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President, The Citadel