

**New Program:** **Master of Arts in Teaching Early Childhood Education**

**Academic Unit:** **Richard W. Riley College of Education  
at Winthrop University**

**Level:** **Master's degree**

**Proposed Date of Implementation:** **January 2009**

**IPEDS Code:** **131210**

**Justification of need of proposed program**

The Richard W. Riley College of Education at Winthrop University routinely receives inquiries from interested adults as to whether or not Winthrop offers an initial certification program in early childhood education (ECED) or elementary education (ELEM). In 2007, ECED was added to the critical shortage area list. Local school districts (Rock Hill and Lancaster, in particular) have indicated to us that they have a growing need for more ECED teachers. Likewise, Fort Mill and Clover districts are experiencing tremendous growth in school populations with new schools being opened each year. There is also increased interest in full day four-year old programs throughout the region. The Center for Educator, Recruitment and Advancement (CERRA) supply and demand surveys indicate a rising number of vacancies in early childhood public school classrooms across South Carolina. This shortage has been a trend for the past four years. All of these indicators justify the need for a new program aimed at initial certification in Early Childhood Education.

**Anticipated program demand and productivity**

Winthrop expects the MAT in Early Childhood Education to have broad appeal for career-changers as well as recent college graduates who desire to pursue a career in education. The University frequently receives inquiries about an MAT in ECED and it is likely that acceptance to the program will be competitive and limited to 20-22 students. A cohort model will be employed totaling four, fulltime terms to complete the program. Enrollment projections follow. Only spring term will have two cohorts enrolled at the same time. One cohort will be enrolled in their internship semester (9 hours) when a new cohort is admitted and begins the coursework (11 hours). Therefore, once a new cohort begins classes, spring terms will yield 400-422 CHP.

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New Program Proposal Summary

Winthrop University

November 1, 2007

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<u>Term</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u># of Hours Enrolled</u>	<u>CHP</u>
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Cohort I

Spring 2009	20-22	11	220-242
Summer 2009	20-22	13	260-286
Fall 2009	20-22	13	260-286
Spring 2010	20-22	9 (internship)	180

Cohort II

Spring 2010	20-22	11	220-242
Summer 2010	20-22	13	260-286
Fall 2010	20-22	13	260-286
Spring 2011	20-22	9 (internship)	180

Cohort III

Spring 2011	20-22	11	220-242
Etc.			

**Extent to which program duplicates existing programs in the state**

There are four M.A.T. ECED programs in the state: Columbia International University, College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, and University of South Carolina – Columbia. All are more than 70 miles from Winthrop and routinely serve different graduate student populations.

**Relationship of the proposed program to existing programs at Winthrop University**

Winthrop University has a long and rich history of teacher education. This new program will help to fill a void of initial certification at the graduate level for personnel desiring to teach in elementary schools.

Winthrop University currently has a M.A.T. that serves secondary and K-12 content areas. The new M.A.T in ECED will use the same conceptual framework and admission and transitions as the current program. Winthrop also has a growing undergraduate program in ECED leading to initial certification. While the B.S. is increasing in size, the proposed new program will address a different population of potential teacher candidates (post graduates, career changers).

**Relationship of the proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation**

Policy at Winthrop University allows the transfer of nine graduate degree hours (up to 12 hours with Dean's approval) from another institution into a graduate program. While some of Winthrop's courses (such as a planned eight-hour integrated methods and field experience) will be unique to this program, all requests to transfer foundational courses into this program from other institutions, particularly those located within South Carolina, will be considered.

**Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed program**

Winthrop will utilize the current Early Childhood, Foundational, Reading, Special Education, and Elementary faculty in the first two terms. When the early childhood methods classes and intern supervision occur (fall and spring, respectively), a new faculty FTE will be required. Restricting the program to a cohort model will allow for the efficient and effective program management. Salary plus fringes for one new faculty FTE are estimated at \$65,000.