



Indiana University of Pennsylvania

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Teacher Education Office
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August 18, 2008

Dear Student:

The Office of Teacher Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania is writing to inform you that the State Board of Education has recently adopted changes that will affect all of Pennsylvania's teacher and educational specialist certification programs. Specifically, nine credits or 270 contact hours or an equivalent combination for adaptations and accommodations for diverse students in an inclusive setting and three credits or 90 contact hours or equivalent combination to meet the instructional needs of English Language Learners have been incorporated into the certification standards for all programs.

These regulatory changes became effective on September 22, 2007. The Pennsylvania Department of Education developed final standards for colleges/universities to follow in May and June of 2008. New program requirements will be developed and incorporated into certification programs by all colleges and universities including IUP to comply with new regulations for certifying teachers and educational specialists that become effective on January 1, 2013.

If you are currently enrolled or plan to enroll in a teacher education or educational specialist program in the fall, you must do *all* of the following to avoid additional course work in special education and instruction of English Language Learners:

- graduate by December 31, 2012
- complete all certification requirements by December 31, 2012, and
- have an approved application for certification into the Pennsylvania Department of Education by December 31, 2012

The State Board of Education also adopted changes specific to the current early childhood, elementary (K-6) and special education certificates.

Candidates can earn the current certificates if they do *all* of the following:

- graduate by December 31, 2012
- meet all requirements for certification by December 31, 2012, and
- have an application for certification to the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved by December 31, 2012

New certification guidelines will apply January 1, 2013, regardless of a candidate's initial enrollment date. Candidates seeking current certifications must complete their programs by December 31, 2012.

New certifications will be Pre K to Grade 4 and Grade 4 to Grade 8 (with at least one area of specialization: math, language arts and English, science, or social studies). **There will no longer be a certificate called Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education after December 31, 2012. Certification in Special Education will no longer be issued as a “stand alone” certificate after December 31, 2012.** After this time, applicants for certification must hold either a Pre K to Grade 4, Grade 4 to Grade 8, or a secondary content certificate. **In addition, the special education certificate will no longer be issued for grades K-12. Instead candidates will apply for either a Pre k to Grade 8 Special Education Certificate or a Grade 7 to Grade 12 Special Education Certificate.**

To successfully obtain Pennsylvania teacher or educational specialist certification consistent with the program of study in which you are currently enrolled, you must graduate, complete all certification requirements, and have a certificate application approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education by December 31, 2012.

The Office of Teacher Education has monitored these changes closely and is prepared to ensure that all students complete their programs of study and receive intended certifications. Any questions may be directed to your program coordinator or the Office of Teacher Education in 104 Stouffer Hall.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Rafoth, Ph.D.
Dean
College of Education and Educational Technology

cc: Dr. Tony Atwater, President
Dr. Gerald Intemann, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. David Myers, Interim Vice Provost for Research and
Dean of the Graduate School
Dr. Edward Nardi, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education
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Dr. Laurie Nicholson, Dean's Associate, Field Placement Coordinator,
Office of Teacher Education
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