

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Master of Arts in Education in Professional Development for Teachers in the College of Education.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of program. The Master of Arts in Education (MAE) program in Professional Development for Teachers was designed to fulfill the professional development needs of experienced teachers. The intent of the program is to enable participants to increase their knowledge base in content areas or to develop expertise in new content areas while sharpening their understanding and skills as classroom teachers.

Reason for proposed termination. There has not been a cohort for this MAE for four years and the last student who graduated two years ago was not part of a cohort.

Five-year trend in enrollments and graduations.

| | # of applications | # of graduates |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| 2015-2016 | 3 | 2 |
| 2016-2017 | 1 | 11 |
| 2017-2018 | 1 | 4 |
| 2018-2019 | 1 (rejected) | 0 |
| 2019-2020 | 1 (rejected) | 0 |

Effect on current students. There are currently no applications to the program, and all admitted students have completed their degrees.

Impact on resources. There are no anticipated cost savings or changes in resource allocation.

Impact on workforce. From the 2019 Condition of Education report from the Iowa Department of Education, only 36.4% of the 37,386 full-time public teachers in Iowa have advanced degrees. This suggests there is ample need for master degree level offerings to teachers in the state of Iowa. However, the Professional Development for Teachers MAE program has struggled to connect with these teachers. A reworking of the program should help to better fit the needs of Iowa's teacher work force.

Alternative programs. There is a similar program at Drake University called MSE: Teacher Effectiveness & Professional Development. That program has yearly cohorts and they also have a tuition payment agreement with Des Moines Public Schools in which the school district pays for the program if a teacher meets certain criteria.

Effective date of termination. August 2020.