

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA: MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa for a Master of Arts in Teaching in the College of Education.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this program.

Description of proposed program. The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program is a 35-credit hour graduate program offered to graduates of secondary bachelor's degree programs (e.g., history, English, business, athletic training/PE) who desire to enter the field of education and become teachers. The program features graduate coursework in methods, educator essentials and professional clinical experiences from the core UNI Teacher Education program. Students may be required to take additional coursework in their content area, as determined by coursework and Iowa Board of Educational Examiners content licensure requirements. Upon completion, students will meet secondary licensure requirements in the state of Iowa in the respective content area they are seeking.

Academic objectives. This MAT program will prepare high-quality secondary educators to serve middle and high school-level students in content areas such as English, business, PE, social sciences and STEM. The program will be offered in online and hybrid formats.

Need for program. This program addresses a state-wide teacher shortage and may alleviate shortages in STEM educators. It also addresses a growing interest from graduates of bachelor's degree majors who did not initially pursue the education profession but now want to become teachers.

This program aligns with UNI's long history and mission of preparing educators to serve the state of Iowa. Most recently, UNI's College of Education has worked to develop alternate pathways of access to a career in education, including the Purple Pathway Program and UNI's online transfer programs (2+2) programs to address teacher shortages in the state.

Relationship to existing programs at the institution. This MAT for secondary educators will not be duplicated by any other program at UNI; there is no current pathway for initial teacher licensure at the graduate level at UNI. It is the only MAT offered at UNI and the only one among the three Regents Institutions to target graduate students with a BA in Business or Athletic Training/PE. This program offers a path forward for career changers who are graduates of major secondary programs seeking to become teachers.

Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. The University of Iowa offers an MAT in English, art, math, science, social studies and world languages. Iowa State University offers MAT options with emphasis in science, math, English or social studies areas. The program developed at UNI provides teacher education coursework for any secondary discipline, starting with English, history, business and athletic training/PE.

Resources to establish a high-quality program. The College of Education has a strong, collaborative partnership with the UNI College of Graduate, Research, and Online Education to offer graduate programming through various delivery modes and supports. The infrastructure to

develop and provide online coursework is currently in place, and the proposed program is crafted from existing coursework.

Student demand. There are areas across the state with a shortage of all secondary endorsements offered through this program. Additionally, UNI is regularly contacted by prospective students who already possess a bachelor's degree and are interested in a graduate program that leads to a teaching endorsement. This program will target individuals across the state who want to become secondary teachers who have a bachelor's degree in an appropriate subject area but lack the professional education coursework required to be eligible to receive a teaching license. The program will attract prospective students who do not want to complete an internship program but still want to complete the criteria to become a licensed teacher.

Workforce need/demand. As cited by the Iowa Dept of Ed and documented on their website (<https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educator-quality/practitioner-preparation/teacher-shortage-areas>), there is a teacher shortage in Iowa. This program seeks to alleviate the shortage through coursework to prepare secondary educators who will serve secondary students.

Funding and Cost. The resources are currently in place through the College of Education, the College of Graduate Education, Research, and Online Education (GRO), and current course offerings.

Projected student enrollment.

Graduate	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Majors	15	25	35	45	45
Non-majors	5	5	5	5	5

Accreditation. UNI is approved for distance education. No additional HLC approval is necessary. The mode of delivery will be online in collaboration with UNI's College of Graduate, Research and Online Education. The coursework will be offered by faculty who meet HLC accreditation requirements. The program will meet the approval of the State of Iowa Department of Education. Teaching licenses and endorsements from this program will meet the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) criteria.

The proposed program will meet the State of Iowa BOEE requirements and will be assessed every seven years in conjunction with the Teacher Education program.

Date of implementation. Fall 2025.

Letter of Support



October 3, 2024

To the Board of Regents:

The Council of Provosts discussed the University of Northern Iowa proposal for a Master of Arts in Teaching (online and hybrid) and reviewed associated documentation. The university has the resources and expertise for this program already in place through the College of Education and its expertise in teacher preparation. With an ongoing statewide teacher shortage, this program offers another way for individuals with bachelor’s degrees to become middle and high school teachers. The plan indicates due diligence with the other Regent universities regarding related programs. Based on the evidence and documentation, this program is likely to benefit the University of Northern Iowa and the state of Iowa.

The Council of Provosts is supportive of the program and wishes the University of Northern Iowa the best in its implementation.

Signed by:
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10/3/2024

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