

Marilyn Hadley
<hadley@unk.edu>
Sent by:
owner-announce@list.unk.edu
11/04/04 01:22 PM

To announce@list.unk.edu
cc
bcc
Subject [announce] General Studies Requirement for Teacher Education

Now that we have completed the Nebraska Department of Education and NCATE accreditation reviews, and implementation of the renewed undergraduate teacher education program is well underway, the College of education is preparing to review General Studies requirements for teacher education majors.

The review will be undertaken over the next year or so, and will involve discussions among college of Education faculty; faculty from the Colleges of Business & Technology, Fine Arts & Humanities, and Natural & Social Sciences who teach secondary methods courses; as well as educators from K-12 partner schools. In addition, colleagues on the General Studies Council and from departments offering General Studies courses will be consulted.

The State Board of Education modified Rule 20 requirements for General Studies in 2002, giving each teacher education program authority to determine specific course requirements. This is a major change from the prescriptive language in previous versions of Rule 20. The new language reads as follows:

005.08 General Education. Each institution shall require all candidates for education degrees to have a minimum of 40 semester credit hours in general education courses. These courses may also be used to meet endorsement requirements. General education courses are those designed for all students, as opposed to those designed to meet professional education requirements.

The entire text for Rule 20 can be found on the NDE website. The specific wording about General Studies is on page 12:

www.nde.state.ne.us/LEGAL/RULE20.html

With this review, the College of Education will complete its efforts in renewing the three components of the undergraduate teacher education program: General Studies requirements, Professional Education courses and field experiences for all education majors, and endorsement programs within the College (specifically, Early Childhood Unified, Elementary, Middle Level, Health, Physical and Special Education). The review comes at a time of renewed interest in

General Studies among UNK faculty members. We in the College of Education look forward to collaborating with our colleagues as we consider changes in General Studies requirements that will strengthen the preparation of well-educated teachers.

Marilyn B. Hadley, Ed. D.
Dean, College of Education
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Kearney, NE 68849
308-865-8502
FAX 308-865-8097
hadleym@unk.edu