

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Masters of Education in Art Education (Ed.M. in Art Education)

SPONSOR:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The proposed addition of a Master of Education degree in Art Education is an adaptation of the existing M.A. degree currently offered. The M. A. degree in art education will still be offered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in addition to the Ed.M. degree. The Ed.M. in Art Education is designed to prepare a person who wishes to pursue advanced professional development in the practice of art education (e.g., an art teacher, visual or fine arts departmental chair, a community-based art education resource specialist or advocate, or a visual or fine arts curriculum consultant). The principal difference between the Ed.M. and the M. A degree is that the proposed Ed.M. degree will not require a Master's Thesis or coursework relating to the development of such a thesis. (See Appendix A.) Most of our future art education Master's students will complete the Master of Education degree, which does not require a thesis.

We also intend to offer within the Master's of Education degree program an option leading to teacher certification for individuals who have a degree in art and who wish to be certified to teach visual arts in grades K-12. Students seeking certification to teach art follow the same sequence of required professional education and art education courses as undergraduate students, in addition to completing the courses required for an Ed.M. degree in Art Education. (See Appendix A.) It typically takes two to three years to complete the Ed.M. with the option leading to certification to teach art.

JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of this proposal is to provide a masters degree that meets the professional needs and interests of a person wishing to pursue professional development in the practice of teaching art in varied educational, cultural, and/or community-based settings, art education advocacy and leadership, and/or art curriculum development, but who is not interested in the kind of advanced theoretical work commonly associated with doctoral studies.

This request is one of two proposals being submitted together and concerning current Masters degree options in Art Education. These two proposals include: (a) a revision to our current Master of Arts In Art Education degree (for students pursuing a research oriented degree leading to doctoral studies); (b) a new Master of Education in Art Education Degree (for students already certified to teach art and who wish to develop their professional abilities further); and (c) an option within the Master of Education for those individuals seeking Certification to Teach Art.

These two degree proposals are designed to distinguish the two art education Masters programs of study from one another in order to better meet the needs of our students and in order to make more efficient use of university resources. We note that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Education Curriculum and Instruction department distinguishes its Masters degrees in a manner similar to what is proposed here.

For many years, the current M. A. degree program in art education has operated as three distinct but related programs of study serving three different kinds of students who have sought Masters degrees in art education at UIUC. These three groups of students include: (a) the masters degree seeking student who wishes to pursue a research oriented masters degree leading to doctoral studies; (b) the masters degree seeking student who is already certified to teach art and who wishes to develop his/her professional abilities further; and (c) the masters degree seeking student who wishes to become certified to teach art.

Currently students who have earned a bachelor's degree in art education and who later decide to seek a Masters degree must enroll in the Master of Arts degree program in art education. The M. A. degree in Art Education is oriented toward theoretical investigations and research. This M.A. degree best serves graduate students wishing to eventually pursue a Ph. D. in Art Education. The art education program needs a master's degree in art education that is designed to meet the professional needs and interests of a person wishing to pursue professional development in the practice of teaching in varied educational, cultural, and/or community-based settings, art education advocacy and leadership, and/or art curriculum development, but who is not interested in the kind of advanced theoretical work commonly associated with doctoral studies. Our proposal is modeled after the Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Science (M.S.) degrees currently offered in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Education. Since the College of Education does not offer degrees with specialization in art or in art education, the Ed.M. in Art Education degree proposed in this petition fills an area of such need.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed

None. Many of the students that currently enroll in our Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program would instead enroll in the Ed.M. in Art Education program. Our current M. A. program would then be limited to those students who: (1) wish to pursue a doctorate degree upon completion of the M. A. and (2) who meet academic requirements for a research-oriented graduate degree program.

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)
No additional students, changes in enrollments, or teaching loads will result.

This change reduces the number of art education Masters students who will enroll in our MA degree program and complete our Master's thesis requirement. The change reduces the Ed.M. student time to completion of the Master's degree by one to two semesters (compared to the MA student who completes a MA thesis). The change also reduces the Thesis advising loads of art

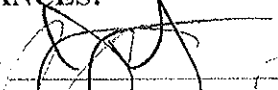
education faculty. However the art education program plans to keep our total number of admissions the same as they currently are. We do not anticipate any increased demand.


c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments

No effect on other departments. The same kinds and numbers of students will be admitted to the art education Ed.M. program as are currently admitted to the art education M.A. program. All future masters students in art education will take the same kinds and numbers of courses outside of the School of Art and Design as current masters students take to fulfill their degree requirements and electives. (See letters from the College of Education.)

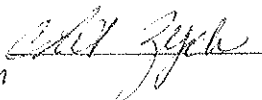
d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.
The art education program does not anticipate increased numbers of students, and resources already exist to meet expected demand.

CLEARANCES:

Signature  Name Joseph Squiteri Sponsoring Dept. Head

Signature  Name MICHAEL ANDERSON Dean

Signature _____ Name _____ Graduate College

Signature  Name EDITH ZEPH Council on Teacher Education

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

Degree Requirements

The Division of Art Education offers two master degree graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Education (Ed. M.) and Master of Art (M.A.). Also offered is the Master of Education option leading to certification to teach K- 12 art in Illinois schools (Ed. M. with Certification). The Division of Art Education also offers the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.), which is listed further down on this website. For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Web site, the Art Education Graduate Programs Handbook, and the Graduate College Handbook.