Request to Add/Change a Graduate Program/Option

Title: Adult Education

Curriculum Code: ADEG College: Education

Dept: Educational Foundations, Leadership & Technology Date: 2/23/2009

Proposed Graduate Program/Option:
Change the nomenclature from Ed.D. to Ph.D. for Adult Education, an approved option under CIP 13.1319.

Justification:
See attached proposal.

Additional resources or resource shifting required. If none, please explain.
No additional resources or resource shifting are required. Course work is provided by existing faculty lines.

Approvals

Graduate Requests

[Signature]
Head
[Date]

Department

[Signature]
Chair
[Date]

College/School Curriculum Committee

[Signature]
Dean
[Date]

College or School

Graduate Council

[Signature]
Chair
[Date]

University Curriculum Committee
MISSION

The mission of the Adult Education program at Auburn University is to provide professional development opportunities to individuals engaged in adult-centered learning. Instruction, research, and outreach form the basis for addressing essential knowledge and skill components for the professional adult educator. Our objective reinforces the belief that adult education is a lifelong process committed to purposeful, synergistic, and systemic learning.

This proposal requests a change in the Adult Education doctoral program degree nomenclature from Doctor of Education (EdD) to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). This doctoral program is approved as an option under CIP 13.1319 Career and Technical Education (formerly Vocational Education). A strong rationale for changing the degree nomenclature is presented and includes the following: (1) direction of the field with regard to doctoral degrees (i.e., doctoral degrees in similar programs at peer institutions), (2) similarity of the research component of the curriculum to other PhD programs in the department and college and to other Adult Education PhD programs in peer institutions, and (3) report of agreement.

With the exception of five programs in Auburn University's College of Education, all existing doctoral programs lead to a PhD degree. This proposal is accompanied by similar requests from the other four EdD programs to change the degree nomenclature to PhD (i.e., Career and Technical Education, Administration of Supervision and Curriculum, Administration of Higher Education, and Administration of Elementary and Secondary Education).

This proposal does not include the addition of a degree program.

DIRECTION OF THE FIELD WITH REGARD TO DOCTORAL DEGREES

At the time of initial approval, the EdD was the most common doctoral degree in areas related to Vocational Education and viewed primarily as a practitioner degree even though the curricular requirements were similar to those of approved PhD programs across the college. Given that graduates of Auburn University's doctoral program in Adult Education frequently take positions as professors and university administrators, it is important that this program follows the trend set by peer programs and changes the degree nomenclature from EdD to PhD. Appendix A documents that the majority of progressive Adult Education programs in peer institutions offer PhD rather than EdD degrees.
The existing doctoral program in Adult Education is designed to prepare students for practitioner as well as university settings. Although the EdD degree remains an excellent practitioners' degree which is well received within public and private educational institutions, the Adult Education program, with its close ties to post-secondary education and workforce development, would be far better suited if the degree nomenclature was changed from an EdD to a PhD. We feel and have evidence that we are losing strong applicants to other Adult Education programs in other neighboring states because of the stigmatization associated with the EdD degree.

CURRICULUM

Justification for this request is based on the premise that the existing EdD program in Adult Education mirrors the specialized content knowledge and research requirements of programs offering PhD degrees in Adult Education at peer institutions as well as other programs offering PhD degrees in Auburn University's College of Education (See Appendix A and Appendix B). EdD graduates achieve "mastery of a special field of learning as shown by the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study and investigation, the successful passing of general examinations covering the major and minor fields, the preparation of an acceptable dissertation reflecting high achievement in scholarship and independent original investigation, and the passing of a final examination on the dissertation and related subjects." (Auburn University Bulletin 2008-2009, p. 115)—achievements which fulfill University requirements for doctoral study.

Specifically, students in the existing EdD program as well as the proposed PhD program are required to have plans of study that include the following:

- A minimum of 18 hours in advanced research methods and statistical techniques.
- A minimum of 90 hours beyond the bachelor's degree to include dissertation hours.

Appendix A documents that the curricular requirements of the existing Adult Education EdD program are similar to and typically exceed the minimum number of hours in the major field, research, and total hours of Adult Education PhD programs offered by peer institutions. Appendix B shows that the curricular requirements are similar to or exceed the minimum number of hours in these areas when compared to sample PhD programs offered by Auburn University's College of Education. In addition, within Auburn University's College of Education, EdD students in Adult Education have met the same graduation requirements as PhD students in other programs, namely:

- They have been predominately part time graduate students throughout their degree program (in contrast to fully funded students).
- They have followed the same residency requirements as PhD students.
- They have taken research courses within the department and in the college.
- They have completed data-based research dissertations.
- They have published research in major journals and have presented at national conferences with, and independent of, their university mentors.
REPORT OF AGREEMENT

This proposal has strong support from the Graduate Faculty within the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology; the college's Curriculum and Academic Affairs Committee; and the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Frances Kochan.
### Appendix A
Peer Institutions Offering Doctorates in Adult Education or Similar Programs:
Degree and Curricular Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Major Field Hours</th>
<th>Research Hours</th>
<th>Supporting Courses/Dissertation Hrs</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>EdD</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36/10</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Florida</td>
<td>PhD/EdD</td>
<td>PhD Curriculum &amp; Instruct-Emphasis Adult Ed/ EdD Ed Program Dev-Emphasis Adult Ed</td>
<td>24/25</td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>PhD: 24/24 EdD: 5/24</td>
<td>83/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern Mississippi</td>
<td>PhD/EdD</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>21/15</td>
<td>PhD: 27/12 EdD: 33/12</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SREB Schools</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Major Field Hours</th>
<th>Research Hours</th>
<th>Supporting Courses/Dissertation Hrs</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36/12</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24/10</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
<td>EdD</td>
<td>Adult &amp; Community College Ed</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>33/12</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Adult and Higher Education</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>44/15</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Arkansas</td>
<td>EdD</td>
<td>Adult Education with concentration in Workforce</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36/18</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Ed Psy with concentration in Adult Education</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29/24</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix B

## Sample PhD Programs in Auburn University’s College of Education:
Degree and Curricular Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Research Hours</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>EdD</td>
<td>EFLT</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Psychology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>EFLT</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Education</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>CTCH</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>KINE</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling Psychology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>SERC</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Departmental Codes:

- **CTCH**: Curriculum & Teaching
- **EFLT**: Educational Foundations, Leadership & Technology
- **KINE**: Kinesiology
- **SERC**: Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology
From: Susan Villaume
To: Snyder, Kevin
CC: Barry, Nancy; France, Arnita; Kaminsky, James; Koerper, Tracy; Kohlm...
Date: 3/19/2009 10:22 AM
Subject: Requests to Change Degree Nomenclature

Kevin,

Attached are five proposals to change the degree nomenclature from EdD to PhD in the following programs:
1. Career and Technical Education
2. Adult Education
3. Administration of Curriculum and Supervision
4. Administration of Higher Education
5. Administration of Elementary and Secondary Education

These requests are a followup to the CIP requests/clarifications that were recently submitted.

Paper copies with signatures will be delivered to your office today. Please let me know if you need any additional clarification regarding these requests.

Susan

Susan Villaume, Ph.D.
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