

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 9-19

(Voting Units: Academic)

“Proposal to Shelve Secondary Education Certification Program”

1. Name of program to be shelved: Secondary Education Certification

The Secondary Education Certification program at Michigan Tech is not an MTU major, but rather, a program that allows students to fulfill the teacher education course requirements for secondary education degree concentrations in several different majors (listed below). Completing the Secondary Education Certification program allows students to be recommended for Michigan Teacher Certification. This proposal is to shelve all of these concentrations.

- Biological Sciences—Secondary Education (SBL7)
- Chemistry—Secondary Education (SCH3)
- English Secondary Education (SEN1)
- Mathematics—Secondary Education (SMA7)
- Physics Secondary Education BA (SPA1)
- Physics Secondary Education BS (SPH1)
- Social Sciences—Secondary Education (SSS2)
- Economics Secondary Ed (BEC2)
- Geology—Secondary Education Earth and Space Science and Integrated Science (EDL3)

2. Final term program will be open for new admits: Students are admitted to the

Secondary Education Certification program separately from their admission to MTU, typically at the end of the student's second year at MTU. Additionally, declaring a secondary education concentration in their major does not automatically mean that a student is admitted to the program, as this is a separate application process. We propose that those students who have already been admitted to the Secondary Education Program for the Fall 2018 semester be the last group of admitted students, due to several factors that are described in #4 below.

3. Plan to complete all enrolled students and any returning students: Students typically take 2 to 2.5 years to complete the teacher education coursework that is required for the Secondary Education Certification program, including student teaching, once they are accepted into the program. We plan to offer all of the teacher education courses required to complete the program (and thus the secondary education concentration requirements) during the 2018-19 academic year. This will allow both new and second year education students (MTU juniors and seniors) to take their required coursework. We plan to offer only the courses taken by second year students (MTU seniors) during the 2019-2020 academic year. We will communicate with all students currently enrolled in the Secondary Education Certification program to make them aware of this plan and work with them to ensure that they are enrolled in the necessary coursework. We will offer only directed teaching (ED4910) during the fall 2020 semester to allow the last group of students to complete their student teaching internship. We will communicate with first and second year MTU students who have chosen a secondary education concentration in their major but have not yet applied to the program to help them consider their options; we are working with another university that offers a teacher education program to develop a way for these students to complete the Michigan teacher certification requirements.

4. Reason for shelving: There are several factors that have led to our decision to shelve the program at this time.

- The program has experienced persistently low enrollment over the past several years. This is consistent with enrollment trends nationally and across the state, but impacts us significantly since our program has always been very small compared to others in the state. In recent years, our low enrollments have forced us (and other departments associated with the program) to regularly run courses with enrollments of less than five (5) students.
- This summer we experienced the unexpected departure of two education faculty and our accreditation/certification officer. We will be losing another faculty who is on a terminal year contract at the end of the 2018-19 academic year, as well as the faculty member in humanities who teaches the required literacy and English teaching methods courses. Humanities does not plan to replace this faculty member in the same capacity. These departures will leave only two education faculty members remaining. We are thus at a crossroads of either making several hires to support the program or shelving the program.
- If the program were to continue, we were scheduled to host an accreditation site visit this fall. There are several factors that give us reason to believe that reaccreditation is uncertain, including the small size of the remaining faculty and the difficulty conducting statistically powerful assessments with such low enrollment.

5. Financial impact to the department and university: There will be no negative financial impact to the department or the university since the program has not been cost effective for many years. Shelving the Secondary Education Certification program will free up resources to support the growth of other programs.

Additional Data Obtained at Curricular Policy Committee Meeting Jeffrey Burl, Chairman

Number of Students Graduating from the Program has been less than 10 annually since the 2013-2014 academic year.

There have been five Education Faculty and one Humanities Faculty that teach the education courses.

- Two Education faculty members that teach in the program left Michigan Tech.
- One other Education faculty member is on a terminal contract.
- The one Humanities faculty that contributes to the program is retiring.
- This leaves two faculty members to teach in this program.
- Humanities has said they are unwilling to hire a replacement in the area needed.
- Cognitive and Learning Sciences is also unwilling to hire replacements in teacher education.
- Faculty numbers are probably insufficient to maintain accreditation.
- Lack of faculty is the driving issue to shelve is certificate program at this point in time.
Requires a big investment to keep the program with small return.

Of the education courses this year:

One course has three students.

One course has four students.

The humanities course has one student.

Additional courses are required for some areas. Departments have been unwilling to offer these courses due to the low enrollments.

Education department paid to have a course in Geology delivered.

The accreditation process has been cancelled and will lapse.

The accreditation visit costs \$25,000.

Accreditation is questionable due to lack of statistically significant data.

There is a plan to get all of the current students through the program.