

Rationale for Redirecting Secondary Teaching Emphases to Entitled Majors

In our ongoing efforts to be transparent to prospective students and their families, as well as transparent at the UW System level, the College of Education and Human Sciences is proposing to redirect current secondary education emphases to entitled majors. For example, we currently have one of the largest music education programs in the state; however, our music education programs are not appearing on the UW System electronic application that prospective students look at when considering where to attend college. Further, our music education program is not appearing on a variety of lists at the UW System level and not appearing on nationwide databases where prospective students may be looking. What is appearing to the public and UW System is that we have a major in music. The public is not seeing that we have music education as a program. We are providing this example to illustrate the need for a curricular change: redirection of a major.

In consultation with Dr. Carleen Vande Zande, Associate Vice Chancellor for Curricular Affairs with UW System and Dr. Barbara Bales, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Educational Innovation – PK – 20 Program, we have received approval to “redirect” our current secondary education emphases to entitled majors without going through the entire process of writing a Notice of Intent and completing a new major request to UW System. This is exciting news for us because all our secondary teaching majors that are current emphases can now become entitled majors, appearing on a variety of databases, and recognized by UW System as entitled majors. The move from emphases of majors to entitled majors will allow UW-Eau Claire to be more transparent with the programs we offer. Moreover, having entitled secondary teaching majors will position us well in the state as a destination for preparing future teachers! We have excellent programs that prepare students to become exemplary teachers who will make a difference in the lives of K-12 students.

To facilitate this transition from emphases to entitled majors, we need to create “new” teaching majors that will replace the current teaching emphases. In other words, we are elevating our current secondary teaching emphases to entitled, stand-alone teaching majors. We are not changing any program requirements and the administrative homes for these majors will remain the same. Current students in the various teaching emphases will continue to be counted as they are now on our campus. Our goal with these proposals is to have all secondary teaching majors appear in all places where UW System lists approved majors on each campus. We also want to ensure that our secondary teaching majors appear on nationwide databases as we expand our recruitment efforts to other states across the country. We especially want our teaching majors to be listed on the UW System electronic application that is completed by prospective students. Having all our majors appear on this application at the System level is critical in our efforts to recruit highly qualified future teachers.

We are looking for your support of these proposals as they move through our shared governance process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Carmen Manning, Dean

Dr. Jill Prushiek, Associate Dean