

**Docket Item:**

University Program Approval: Western Oregon University (WOU), B.A/B.S. in Education Studies.

**Summary:**

WOU proposes a new degree program leading to a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Education Studies. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program:  
B.A/B.S. in Education Studies at Western Oregon University, effective Spring 2017.



**Western Oregon University seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission approval to offer an instructional program leading to a B.A./B.S. degree in Education Studies.**

1. *Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution's mission and strategic plan.*

The proposed undergraduate major will focus on the exploration of educational processes and institutions, and the broader social, cultural, political and economic factors that affect them. The program will provide structured opportunities for students to engage in the study of education as an interdisciplinary field while making connections with other liberal arts disciplines. This major is not connected to educator licensure.

The proposed major will enable Western Oregon University (WOU) to expand its ability to serve students who are not pursuing licensure to teach in public K-12 school systems, such as: (a) teaching in private schools or internationally; (b) teaching in non-school settings such as outdoor programs, environmental centers, museums, or other educational agencies; and (c) graduate studies in fields such as special education, school counseling, speech pathology, education law, education policy, and education research.

WOU's mission is to "provide effective learning opportunities that prepare students for a fulfilling life in a global society, support an accessible and diverse campus community, and to improve continuously our educational, financial, and environmental sustainability." The proposed major in Education Studies is tightly aligned to this mission through increasing connections across disciplines associated with teaching, learning, schooling, and society.

2. *What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?*

We have received repeated inquiries over the last several years from students seeking a degree pathway related to the field of education but outside of traditional licensure programs. In addition, the program provides an alternative to students who have begun the traditional licensure baccalaureate degree program, but found that traditional teaching is not an appropriate career direction. Lastly, we also have requests from international students to study American educational approaches, but our traditional licensure baccalaureate program is inappropriate for this need.

3. *Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?*

A similar undergraduate program exists at the University of Oregon. The proposed program mainly serves WOU students who now attempt to cobble together such a degree via an interdisciplinary studies major.

All appropriate University committees and the Statewide Provosts Council have approved the proposed program. The Western Oregon University Board of Trustees approved the program on July 27, 2016.

**Recommendation to the Commission**

The Statewide Provosts Council recommends that the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission authorize Western Oregon University to establish an instructional program leading to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Education Studies, effective Spring 2017.

**Institution:** Western Oregon University  
**Program:** B.A./B.S. in Education Studies

Action: At the October 6, 2016 meeting, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program for Western Oregon University, B.A./B.S. in Education Studies, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review/approval. The WOU Board of Trustees approved it at their July 27, 2016 meeting.

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**Eastern Oregon University**

Sarah Witte, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon Health & Science University**

David Robinson, executive vice provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon State University**

Ron Adams, interim provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon Tech**

LeAnn Maupin, interim provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Portland State University**

Sona Andrews, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Southern Oregon University**

Susan Walsh, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**University of Oregon**

Scott Coltrane, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Western Oregon University**

Steve Scheck, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained

