New Academic Program Proposal  
Eastern Oregon University – B.A./B.S. in  
Elementary Education

Eastern Oregon University seeks Board approval to offer an instructional program leading to a B.A./B.S. in Elementary Education.

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY – B.A./B.S. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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

The mission of the College of Education Elementary Education program fits well with Eastern Oregon University’s (EOU) mission: Our purpose is to prepare exceptional teachers for rural Oregon. We emphasize that our teachers will be responsive to the diverse population of Oregon’s schools and that they be reflective practitioners. We make the program accessible through the cohort model delivered at five sites in the state. All students in the program are engaged in inquiry and examination of their own practice through completion of the work sample, a form of scholarly endeavor that supports effective teaching practices. An admission requirement to the program is that students have engaged in service to children of an elementary age.

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

The mission statement of EOU specifically addresses providing professional programs that will connect the rural regions of Oregon. An elementary education major would be the most significant professional program offered by EOU that continues the tradition of the founding of the institution as a normal college. At present, EOU offers the elementary education curriculum as a minor rather than a major. Current undergraduate teacher preparation students all express a desire to have a major in elementary education and recruitment of students would be enhanced with this major. Program assessment reveals that regional schools desire EOU-prepared teachers and the University expects the graduates to be hired by schools in the region. Producing quality teachers for rural Oregon supports the social and economic needs of the state. Those prepared in rural Oregon tend to stay and work in rural Oregon, bolstering the well-being of the region.

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

All OUS institutions offer initial teacher preparation programs. EOU currently has an undergraduate teacher preparation program. The only change will be that with approval of this proposal, students in this program will be recognized with an elementary education major, rather than a major. EOU will maintain the same relationships it currently has with other programs in the state.
4. **What new resources will be needed initially and on a recurring basis to implement the program? How will the institution provide these resources? What efficiencies or revenue enhancements are achieved with this program, including consolidation or elimination of programs over time, if any?**

This program will not require any new resources as it is utilizing courses and programs currently in place. These have been reorganized into a major. This major will promote maximum enrollments in current classes, leading to increased efficiency.

All appropriate University committees and the OUS Provosts’ Council have positively reviewed the proposed program.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMITTEE**

The OUS Provosts’ Council recommends that the Board’s Academic Strategies Committee authorize Eastern Oregon University to establish an instructional program leading to a B.A./B.S. in Elementary Education, effective Fall 2010. With Committee approval, a five-year follow-up review of this program will be conducted in 2015-16.

*(Committee action required.)*