

DATE: January 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Austin Peay State University, Master of Arts (M.A.T.) in Teaching

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Since the 1990's, APSU has served post-baccalaureate students through a modified Master of Arts in Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Advanced Studies. The proposed Master of Arts in Teaching is designed to provide opportunities for persons who hold a baccalaureate degree in a licensure field to concurrently complete initial teacher licensure requirements and obtain a master's degree.

Demand for new licensed teachers is strong in the local community, region, and the State. Clarksville Montgomery County Schools and other districts in the APSU service region are growing rapidly and are increasingly unable to meet the demand for new teachers. Shortages in various secondary disciplines (mathematics, science, Spanish, English and special education) are particularly critical, but overall shortages are increasingly common. Due to retirements and general attrition from the profession, increased shortages are anticipated in coming years. The proposed M.A.T. will allow APSU to aggressively recruit prospective new teachers from among non-traditional (post-baccalaureate) populations.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Spring 2007

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the following academic standards and criteria adopted by the Commission referenced below:

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with and supportive of the mission of the university. Austin Peay State University offers strong undergraduate programs that provide the foundation for professional programs or graduate study.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed curriculum requires completion of 30 credit hours for the concentration in Secondary Education, 42 hours for Elementary Education, and 48 hours for Special Education. An academic major or the equivalent in the licensure field is required for admission. This degree program is not available to persons who already hold a professional teaching license. However, persons teaching on an alternative license may qualify for admission to the M.A.T. degree program. Concentrations are available in Secondary Education (7-12), Elementary Education (K-6), and Special Education (K-12). The components of the curriculum include:

	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Special Ed</u>
Major Field Core	24	24	27
Concentration	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>
TOTAL:	30	42	48

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: An appropriate academic major is required for each licensure field. Academic deficiencies must be addressed through additional undergraduate coursework as a condition of full admission to the post-baccalaureate initial licensure programs of study. Full admission to the program is also determined by meeting Graduate School admissions requirements listed in the *Graduate Bulletin*. Recommendation for professional teaching licensure requires meeting the requirements for the M.A. in Teaching degree, completing a full semester of clinical experience (student teaching), meeting the minimum scores on all required PRAXIS II licensure examinations, and preparing an electronic portfolio.

Student Projections	Projected Program Productivity		
	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time	Graduates
Year 1	10	5	0
Year 2	30	5	12
Year 3	30	10	20
Year 4	40	10	20
Year 5	40	15	20

1.1.20D FACULTY: No additional full time faculty is required. The School of Education faculty is adequate.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: The current School of Education library budget is adequate for implementation of this program.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed M.A.T. will be housed in the School of Education and directed by the program coordinator.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The local Clarksville Montgomery County school system currently has an increasing number of faculty with appropriate credentials and terminal degrees to provide an adequate supply of qualified adjunct instructors.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: School of Education instructional facilities and equipment are adequate to support the implementation of this program.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: Austin Peay State University currently serves the growing body of future teachers through a modified Master of Arts in Education degree, which is by design, an advanced master's degree for experienced licensed teachers. Thus, inexperienced persons seeking post-baccalaureate licensure and those with licensure and experience share the same set of courses. Aside from the

difficulty this enrollment pattern typically presents for faculty and students alike, the immediate issue relates to NCATE. With an NCATE re-accreditation visit scheduled in 2007, APSU is particularly concerned by the current mix of initial licensure and advanced graduate degree enrollments in advanced courses. NCATE Board of Examiners and their colleagues on the joint visitation team from the Tennessee Department of Education employ very different standards and policies for these two unique programs and are very unlikely to approve the current program structure. Since 2000, the number of alternatively licensed teachers has grown steadily from only five (2000-2001) to nearly two hundred (2005-2006). This population of new teachers will be better served by the courses proposed with the M.A.T. program.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: The productivity of existing programs does not keep pace with the persistent and growing demand for new teachers. Similar programs (post-baccalaureate licensure programs including MAT-type programs) exist in all other TBR universities, at all three UT university system campuses, and several private colleges in Tennessee. However, students from upper-middle Tennessee have no other easily accessible post-baccalaureate program. Currently, these students are inadequately served through the existing “advanced” M.A. in Education. Approval and implementation of the proposed M.A. in Teaching will provide more efficient and appropriate post-baccalaureate routes to initial teacher licensure.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: None indicated.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The Tennessee Department of Education has already granted conditional licensure program approval. The program will be reviewed for full approval at the joint NCATE/TDOE re-accreditation visit scheduled for February 17-21, 2007. The establishment of a M.A.T. will position APSU to meet NCATE accreditation standards and assist with the 2007 NCATE review.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT (Graduate Programs): The consultant selected to conduct the external review was Dr. Terry James, Chair of the Department of Leadership studies, College of Education at the University of Central Arkansas. Dr. James commented on the strong, supportive faculty and indicated that the proposed program was satisfactorily designed to align with the standards of the profession and NCATE requirements. He positively commented on the preparation and ability of the School of Education to implement the program. He recommended minor revisions in the curriculum, which were addressed by the university, prior to TBR approval.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: The restructuring of the program will utilize faculty from the current M.A. in Education program; therefore, no additional costs are required.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment

and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance and others set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. The Commission may choose to extend the period, if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.