



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Office of
Academic Affairs

Proposal to Discontinue Academic Degree Programs in the College of Education at the University of Wyoming

October 22, 2021

Under the auspices of University Regulation 2-13, the Provost and Executive Vice President and Dean of the College of Education here present a proposal to discontinue the following degree programs:

1. Ph.D., Counseling Education & Supervision (19 students currently enrolled)
2. Ph.D., Learning, Design, and Technology (2 students currently enrolled)

President Seidel's deliberate focus on "building a best-in-class 21st-century land grant university true to its Wyoming roots" centers the College's responsibility in the creation of a foundation for Wyoming's new economy. Teachers and other educational leaders are cornerstones on this foundation. The College of Education plays a singularly essential role in ensuring that the pipeline of talent into that "best in class 21st century university" is capable of engaging in that renewed form of the university. In short, the College's work evolving teacher preparation and K-12 school leadership programs to shape those inputs to the university simply must be resourced at a level commensurate with the challenge underlying President Seidel's vision and commitment.

In a current 2-13 review, with input from the 2-13 review committee, the Dean has recommended a reorganization of the College that includes three divisions: Educator Preparation Division, Division of Graduate Education, and Innovation and Engagement Division. This model offers important opportunities to strengthen support for the College's educator preparation programs in a "Educator Preparation Division" focusing exclusively on degree and certificate programs leading to eligibility for initial teacher licensure. It also promises mechanisms for greater support of graduate and research programs through a "Division of Graduate Education" that includes broad program areas reconstituted as Learning, Design, and Technology; Educational Leadership and Administration (Leadership and Higher Education combined in a single unit); Counseling; Special Education; Research Methods; and Curriculum & Instruction (moved from the current School of Teacher Education). The third "division" in this model draws on the strengths of the College's programs of practice and research to create a formal area for innovation and engagement. This division allows for a formal integration of the Trustees Education Initiative into the heart of the college's academic programming and outreach. Moreover, this model promises opportunities to strengthen student success and completion

through the concentration of professional advising resources and a reconfiguration of the College's administrative support structure, centralizing staff, and administrative support.

If the proposal is approved and with budget constraints underlying the reconfiguration of the College, it is necessary to eliminate a small number of degree programs in the proposed Graduate Education Division. To balance the promise of the new college structure with the significant reduction of staffing resources, the following degrees are recommended for discontinuation:

1. Ph.D., Counseling Education & Supervision
2. Ph.D., Learning, Design, and Technology

In accordance with UW Regulation 2-13, the Provost will discuss this recommendation and seek feedback from the Academic Personnel, staff, and academic administrators in the College of Education. The Provost will also establish a 2-13 Review Committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, and administrators from the College who will review the proposal, seek feedback from internal and external stakeholders, and prepare a teach-out plan for students currently enrolled in these programs. Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and ASUW will be invited to nominate someone to serve on the committee.

After reviewing submitted comments and making any necessary revisions, the Provost will submit the revised proposal, including a recommendation and support materials to the President. The President in collaboration with the Faculty Senate will review the recommendation. The President shall make a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees to discontinue the degree programs within a maximum period of 120 days from the date of this request.

Background

Ph.D. in Counseling. While discontinuing the Ph.D., the College intends to continue with the MS in Counseling—an essential degree for the state and one with high demand historically. There are currently 19 students enrolled in this program. The Ph.D. has proven to be an expensive program for the College, enrolling a larger proportion of out-of-state and international students who receive a high share of internal financial support. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) maintains strict expectations of student-to-faculty ratios across all degree programs. Given the firm expectations of CACREP, our continued commitment to staffing the PhD limits our ability to meet the need at the master's level. The College will focus exclusively on the MS, given the significant external need at the master's level and the budget challenges forcing a rebalancing of the College's graduate program portfolio. The Ph.D. in Counseling will be revisited when the College grows the capacity to strategically support doctoral training across the college.

Ph.D., Learning, Design, and Technology (LDT). LDT is an important, forward-looking program. The enrollments are a testament to demand at both the master's and doctoral levels. The program has shaped vital parts of the College's undergraduate programming, as well. While continuing with both the MS and Ed.D., the recommendation is to discontinue the Ph.D. in LDT. There are currently 2 students enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Here too, is a question of program focus. The Ed.D. and MS degrees are the most valued credentials for our needs in the state. The

tightening of focus on these programs will also allow the faculty to continue integrating their important work into other programs across the College.

Teach Out Plans. Teach out plans for current, perspective, and stopped out students will be finalized by the review committee.

Tentative Timeline

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| October 22, 2021 | Notice of Recommendation to Discontinue Programs (to President, with copies to Cabinet, Senates, Deans & Directors, & other stakeholders) |
| November 22, 2021 | Final report from review committee due to Provost |
| November 23, 2021 | Final recommendation to President, Senates (including Graduate Council), and Deans and Directors, for review and feedback |
| November 29, 2021 | Faculty Senate Meeting* |
| December 13, 2021 | Faculty Senate Meeting * |
| January 12-14, 2022 | Recommendation to Board of Trustees for action |

* It is anticipated that the President and Provost will meet with faculty senate during one of their regularly scheduled meetings. If the schedule does not permit, a special meeting may be needed for the President to review the recommendation with the senate.