



*Professional Education Programs*

**MEMO**

**To:** Dr. Pradeep Maxwell Dass  
Ms. Sharon Cardenas

**From:** Cynthia Conn, PhD, Assessment & Accreditation Consultant

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Conn".

**Date:** 1/28/2014

**RE:** NCATE accreditation implications of the BSEd in Biology Secondary Education proposed program changes

I write in my capacity as the Northern Arizona University Acting Assistant Vice Provost for the Professional Education Programs which are accredited by NCATE. This review is in regards to compliance with NCATE/CAEP accreditation. The BSEd in Biology Secondary Education is reviewed through the NCATE/CAEP Specialized Professional Association Program Review process which is accepted by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) per the Arizona and NCATE state agreement. Based on the success of the BSEd Biology Secondary Education SPA program review and the unit level or institutional accreditation process, the Arizona Department of Education does grant an institutional recommendation for this program. This memo addresses accreditation and state review issues only, and should not be construed as an endorsement of any proposed changes.

Additionally, this verification does not include evaluation of the content related assessments required by the NAU Professional Education Programs. However, there is still several assessment requirements noted in the NCATE/CAEP guidelines and established by the Professional Education Programs that are needed for the unit level or institutional accreditation report.

**Accreditation Verification:** The proposed program change for the BSEd in Biology Secondary Education that includes lowering the Mathematics and Science Teaching Courses from 33 to 31 credit hours is problematic.

**Rationale:** Program changes prior to a subsequent review by NCATE/CAEP and ADE need to be either an equivalent course replacement/credit hours or represent increased expectations for students. Again, lowering criteria is problematic since the ADE Institutional Recommendation was based on a program of study the included 33 credit hours of Mathematics and Science Teaching Courses.

**From:** Cynthia Conn

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 12:02 PM

**To:** Stuart S Galland; Sharon Faye Cardenas; Pradeep Maxwell Dass

**Subject:** RE: UGC/UCC plan changes related to BSEd in General Science and Biology Secondary Education Programs

Hello everyone, Based on a conversation I have had with Scott, it sounds like the change in Mathematics and Science Teaching credit hours from 33 to 31 hours was first recommended by Dr. Kathy Hildebrand. It is my understanding that the additional 2 credit hours are still required prior to admission into the BSEd Biology and General Science programs. Given this information and that it is my understanding that CSTL was part of this previous conversation, but that the change is just now going thru, it should not be an issue in relation to the NCATE accreditation or ADE Institutional Recommendations.

Scott, I appreciate the clarification.

Thanks, Cynthia

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