# http://www.ric.edu/webcommunications/images/SealWithText_Small_Black.pnggraduate COMMITTEE curriculum PROPOSAL FORM

## A. Cover page (hover over text for more instructions)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A.1[. Course or program](#_acknowledge) | **M.Ed. in Elementary and Secondary Special education** |  |
| [Replacing](#Ifapplicable)  |  |  |
| Academic Unit | Feinstein School of Education  |  |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | Program: [revision](#revision)  |  |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | Marie Lynch | [Home department](#home_dept) | SPED |
| A.4. [Rationale](#Rationale)Additional Information for [new programs](#type) | **Requested changes:*** Change to Admission Requirements

**Rationale for changes**The Rhode Island Department of Education (9/24/20) made changes to teacher certification that impacted the M.Ed. in Elementary and Secondary Special Education program. (<https://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Teachers-and-Administrators-Excellent-Educators/Educator-Certification/Cert-main-page/Certification_Regulations_August2020_Overview.pdf>) Teaching certifications in elementary or secondary special education no longer require general education initial certification (e.g. Elementary Education, Middle Level Education, or Secondary Education).Teachers of elementary or secondary students with special needs are responsible to teach in grades 1-6 or 7-12, respectively. This program revision reflects changes to the M.Ed. in Elementary and Secondary Special Education programs:* to offer an additional option in the admission requirement besides the general education initial certification
* add Praxis Test(s) Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT) as a prerequisite to ensure candidates have base knowledge in elementary or secondary education aligned with RIDE requirements
* given that some applicants will now not necessarily have teaching certification, a review of the applicants’ background knowledge/skills may be needed, to determine other pre-requisite requirements for readiness for the field of special education
* add greater clarity to admission criteria; revise general overview description
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| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact) | Changes will allow admission for graduate candidates with a wider range of bachelor’s degrees to enter the M.Ed. in Elementary or Secondary Special Education programs. |
| A.6. [Impact on other programs](#impact) | N/A  |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | *[Faculty PT & FT](#faculty" \o "Need to hire new full-time or part-time faculty? This is where you indicate if this proposal will be affecting FLH in your department/program.)*:  | **None** |
|  | [*Library*:](#library) | **None** |
|  | [*Technology*](#technology) | **None** |
|  | [*Facilities*](#facilities): | **None** |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | **Fall 2021** | A.9. [Rationale if sooner than next Fall](#Semester_effective) |  |

## C. [Program Proposals](#program_proposals)

|  | [Old (for revisions only)](#old_program) | New/revised |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C.1. [Enrollments](#enrollments) |  |  |
| C.2. [Admission requirements](#admissions) | Admission Requirements1. A completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee.2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work.3. A bachelor’s degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in all undergraduate course work.4. Three Candidate Reference Forms accompanied by three letters of recommendation.5. A Performance-Based Evaluation. 6. Completion of SPED 300 (or equivalent determined by the Special Education advisor). 7. An essay describing the candidate’s commitment to special education, cultural awareness, collaboration, and lifelong learning.8. An M.Ed. in Elementary or Secondary Mild/Moderate Disabilities requires Rhode Island certification in Elementary or Secondary Education or concurrent enrollment9.     An interview may be required. | Admission Requirements1.  Completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee.2.  Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work.3. Professional license (elementary or secondary education certificate) or passing test scores on the Elementary or Secondary Praxis Principles of Teaching & Learning (PLT).4.  Bachelor’s degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in all professional course work.5.  Three Candidate Reference Forms accompanied by three letters of recommendation related to education and experience in special education or related field.6. A Performance-Based Evaluation that documents the candidate’s education and/or experience with individuals with exceptionalities. 7. Completion of foundational coursework in special education (SPED 531 or equivalent), and other pre-requisite requirements as determined by the Program Director.  8. An essay describing the candidate’s commitment to the field of Elementary or Secondary Special Education, cultural awareness, collaboration, and lifelong learning.9. An interview may be required. |
| C.9. Other changes if any**(this comes under the title of the program)** | Initial certification program results in licensure as a special education teacher of students with mild to moderate disabilities at either the elementary or secondary levels. | The M.Ed. in Elementary or Secondary Special Education Program is an initial certification program, leading to licensure in elementary (gr1-6) or secondary (gr7-12) special education. |

## D. Signatures

##### D.1. Approvals:

##### Required from department chairs, program directors, and deans from the academic unit originating the proposal.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Marie Lynch | Program Director, M.Ed. in Elementary & Secondary Special Education | Marie A. Lynch | 4/15/21 |
| Paul LaCava | Chair, Special Education | Paul LaCava | 4/15/2021 |
| Jeannine Dingus-Eason | Dean, Feinstein School of Education and Human Development | *Jeannine Dingus-Eason* | 4/15/2021 |

##### D.2. [Acknowledgements](#acknowledge):

##### Required from all departments (and corresponding dean) impacted by the proposal. Signature does not indicate approval. Concerns should be brought to the attention of the graduate committee chair for discussion.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#Signature_2) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Carolyn Obel-Omia | Chair of Elementary Education | Carolyn Obel-Omia | 4/15/21 |
| Lesley Bogad | Chair of Educational Studies | Lesley Bogad | 4/15/21 |
|  |  |  | Tab to add rows |