



March, 2009

Dear Education Student,

Exciting changes are coming to the **Teacher Education** program that will ensure Grand Valley's reputation for preparing outstanding teachers. Here is the basic information that you will need in order to understand the changes and make decisions

- ❖ The changes pertain to you if you will begin **Teacher Assisting** after Fall '09.
- ❖ The **choice** will be yours whether to enter the new program or the current one.
- ❖ Some students will choose to stay with the current program. Many will enter the new program to take advantage of the **improvements**.
- ❖ Whatever choice you make will be **right**—it depends on your situation and your goals.

We are enclosing two items that should help you make your choice:

- ❖ A comparative chart on **"Which Program is Best for You?"**
- ❖ **"New Teacher Education Program FAQs"** for common questions

The first thing to do is study the two programs and make sure you understand your choices. If you have questions after that, be sure to check with your advisor or advising centers in CLAS or the COE. You don't have to make a decision immediately, but two of the new courses will begin in Winter, and you could register for them any time after mid-March, 2009.

We are excited about the new program and want to answer any questions you have. Please call or visit any of the resources listed in the attachments. We send our very best wishes to you as you continue toward your goal of becoming a professional educator.

Sincerely yours,

College of Education Faculty and Staff

Which Program is Best for You?

Question: If you choose the new teacher education program, can any of your "old" classes count?

Answer: Check out "Hybrid Options" below. Depending on what you have already taken, you may be able to count as many as 5 classes toward the new program.

Old Program Must finish by Dec 2012	New Program	Hybrid Options **With Course Substitutions
Pre-Admission Courses—New Courses Begin Winter 2010		
(3) Psy 301 Child Dev't	(3) Psy 301 Child Development	**Same course
(3) Psy 325 Ed Psychology	(3) Ed 337 Assessment for Learning	**Old Psy 325 fulfills new Ed 337
(3) Ed 200 Intro to Ed	(3) Ed 315 Diverse Perspectives on Ed	**Old Ed 200 fulfills new Ed 315
(3) Ed 205 Ed Tech		
(3) Ed 225 Diversity in Ed		
Teacher Assisting Semester—New Courses Begin Fall 2010		
(6) Ed 330/331 Assisting	(5) Ed 330/331 Teacher Assisting	
(3) Ed 310 Classroom Env'ts	(3) Ed 310 Classroom Environments	
(3) Ed 320/321 Reading	(3) Ed 320/321 Reading	
	(3) *Ed 370 Technology in Education	**Old Ed 205 fulfills new Ed 370
	(3) *Ed 378/379 Universal Design	
	*Ed 370 and/or Ed 378/379 may be taken during or after Assisting— but must be taken before Student Teaching	
Student Teaching Semester—New Courses Begin Winter 2011		
(12) Ed 430/431 St. Teaching	(10) Ed 430/431 Student Teaching	
	(3) Ed 485 Context of Ed Issues (May be taken after Student Teaching —but before Cert.)	**Old Ed 225 fulfills new Ed 485
(39) Credits	(39) Credits	(39) Credits

For more advice, call or visit ~~

Major Advisor or CLAS Advising Center (C-1-140 MAK, 616-331-8585) www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising

Student Information and Services Center (101 EC, 616-331-6650) www.gvsu.edu/coe

New Teacher Education Program FAQs

Will the changes affect me?

If you will begin Teacher Assisting after Fall 2009, you can choose which program you want to complete.

What are the advantages of the new program?

You can enter the program earlier, work with a wider range of students, and have more hands-on classroom experience.

What if I have taken some prerequisites already?

Substitutions are available for students who want to use former courses in the new program.

Will the new program take longer?

The total credits remain the same (39). Use the "Which Program is Best for You?" chart to see how you could enter the new program if you choose. The chart also shows where to go for advice.

When will the new courses begin?

Ed 315 and Ed 337 will begin Winter 2010—or you may be able to substitute former courses for them.

Is there a disadvantage to staying in the old program?

Some courses will phase out and be replaced by the new equivalent. But the main consideration is whether you can finish by December 2012 (including Student Teaching).

Must my major be done before I enter either program?

Do I have to take back-to-back field semesters?

No to both questions - and the new program makes flexibility even easier. Your advisor can help with this.