

August 2010

Dear Elementary Education Student,

Exciting changes are coming to the **Elementary Teaching/Minor** 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 **all** students seeking elementary certification, regardless of year of entry to GVSU.
- ❖ These course changes have been phased in over the next several semesters, with several new courses already offered beginning in Fall 2009.
- ❖ If you have already taken courses that fulfill minor requirements/categories, you **will not** be required to take the new courses in those categories. Please see the Transition Guide to determine whether you have completed specific categories or if course work still remains.
- ❖ The new courses meet all state standards for elementary certification.
- ❖ **These changes do not apply to Psychology/Special Education students.** There are changes coming to the Psychology/Special Education program, and these students should stay in close contact with their advisor for information.

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

- ❖ A comparative chart that clearly identifies the changes to the courses in the minor.
- ❖ **"New Elementary Teaching Minor FAQs"** for common questions.

The first thing to do is study the changes and make sure you understand how it impacts your progress towards completion of the minor. If you have questions after that, be sure to check with your faculty advisor or advising centers in CLAS or the COE.

We are excited about the new changes to the Elementary minor 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 elementary educator.

Sincerely yours,

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty and Academic Advising Staff  
College of Education Faculty and Staff

# **New Elementary Teaching Minor FAQs**

## **Will the changes affect me?**

It depends on how far along you are on completing the minor. If all categories are complete, you do not need to take any of the new courses. If you have some categories complete and some remaining, the Transition Guide will provide you with information on the courses now required for all categories.

## **What are the advantages of the new courses?**

The new courses have been developed with keen attention paid to the Michigan Department of Education standards for elementary preparation. That is not to say that the previous courses are inferior, but the newly designed classes are very specific to elementary preparation and teaching.

## **Will it be in my best interest to take the new courses even if I have already completed that category of the minor?**

In most cases, this will not be necessary. That decision is best made in consultation with your faculty advisor, your College of Education advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center. Several factors should be considered: your performance in the previous courses; your progress towards completing degree and certification requirements; and your goals as an educator.

## **Is there a deadline for using the previous minor courses towards completion of the elementary minor?**

A deadline of December 2012 has been established for students to be able to use old elementary minor coursework. The old Elementary subject area test will be offered for the last time in July 2013. Students will need to graduate by the end of Winter 2013 and pass the old elementary test by July 2013 to receive their elementary teaching certificate.

## **Who should I speak to if I have more questions?**

You have several options: your faculty advisor; your College of Education Advisor; an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center (call 616-331-8585 to set up an appointment).

## Elementary Distributed/Elementary Certification Minor Course Change Information

Previous Elementary Minor Courses	Revised Elementary Minor Courses	Transition Guidelines
<b>English Requirement:</b> ENG 308 – Teaching Reading: The Necessary Skills	ENG 308 – Teaching Reading: The Necessary Skills	No Change
<b>Mathematics Requirement:</b> MTH 221 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I <b>and</b> MTH 222 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II <b>OR</b> MTH 223 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers III	MTH 221 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I <b>and</b> MTH 222 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II <b>OR</b> MTH 223 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers III	No Change
<b>Fine Arts Requirement:</b> ART 230 – Art for the Classroom Teacher <b>OR</b> MUS 350 – Music for the Classroom Teacher	<b>New Course:</b> MAT 300 – Music, Art and Theater for Elementary Education (offered beginning Fall 2009)	If ART 230 or MUS 350 was taken prior to Fall 2009, requirement is considered complete.  If neither were taken prior to Fall 2009, MAT 300 is now required to fulfill this category.  ART 230 and MUS 350 will no longer be offered beginning Fall 2009.
<b>Language Arts Requirement Options:</b> ENG 307 – Teaching Writing: Elementary <b>OR</b> ENG 309 – Teaching Literature to Children <b>OR</b> WRT 219 – Introduction to Creative Writing <b>OR</b> Any foreign language course	<b>New Course:</b> ENG 302 – Introduction to Language Arts (offered beginning Fall 2010)  This course is NOT required for Language Arts majors	If any of the language arts options were completed prior to Fall 2010, the requirement is considered complete.  If none of the courses were taken prior to Fall 2010, ENG 302 is now required to fulfill this category.  Students <u>will not</u> fulfill this category by taking one of the previous course options during or after Fall 2010.
<b>Physical Education/Health Requirement:</b> CTH 366 – Drama in Education <b>OR</b> PED 305 – Movement Education	<b>New Courses:</b> PED 265 – Teaching Health in Elementary Schools  PED 266 – Movement and Dance	If either PED 305 or CTH 366 was taken prior to Fall 2009, the requirement is considered complete.  If neither were taken prior to Fall 2009, both PED 265 and 266 are now required to complete this category.  PED 305 and CTH 366 will no longer be offered starting Fall 2009.
<b>Laboratory Science:</b> Take one laboratory natural science course from the	<b>New Requirements:</b> SCI 225 – Integrated Life Sciences for K-8	If any one of the laboratory science courses was taken prior to Fall 2010, the requirement is considered complete.

<p>general education requirements. Recommended:          BIO 107 – Great Lakes and Other Water Resources          CHM 201 – Intro. To Chemical Sciences          GEO 201 – Geosphere for K-8          PHY 201 – Inquiry: Mechanical and Thermal World          SCI 225 – Integrated Life Sciences for K-8          Or          Any Laboratory Science course</p>	<p>SCI 226 – Integrated Physical Sciences for K-8</p> <p>These courses are NOT required for Integrated Science majors.</p>	<p>If no laboratory science course has been taken, both of the new courses <b>are required beginning Fall 2010</b> and strongly encouraged for students who began Fall 2009.</p> <p>If students have completed one lab science class prior to Fall 2010, it is <b>highly recommended</b> to take the opposite SCI class. For example, if a student has completed PHY 201, he or she is encouraged to take SCI 225.</p>
<p><b>Social Sciences:</b>          Take one of the following:          ECO 210 – Introductory Microeconomics          ECO 211 – Introductory Macroeconomics          GPY 235 – World Regional Geography          HST 203 – World History to 1500 A.D.          HST 204 – World History since 1500          HST 205 – American History to 1877          HST 206 – American History since 1877          PLS 102 – American Government and Politics          SOC 280 – Social Problems</p>	<p><b>New Course:</b>          SST 309 – Social Studies for Elementary Teachers (offered beginning Fall 2010)</p> <p>This course is not required for Social Studies majors.</p>	<p>If any one of the approved courses was taken prior to Fall 2010, the requirement is considered complete.</p> <p>If requirement was not satisfied prior to Fall 2010, SST 309 is now required to complete this category.</p> <p>Students <u>will not</u> fulfill this category by taking one of the previous course options during or after Fall 2010.</p>

**Additional Notes:**

- It is strongly recommended that you meet with your faculty advisor in your major to discuss your individual records and determine the best course of action for completing the elementary minor. Substitutions may be necessary and those must be approved by your faculty advisor.
- If you have additional questions regarding this transition, please contact the CLAS Academic Advising Center by calling 331-8585, by emailing [advstu@gvsu.edu](mailto:advstu@gvsu.edu), or by stopping in the Center located in C-1-140 MAK.
- **This minor is not required for Special Education and this guide does not apply to courses used for Special Education.**

**MTTC Information:**

- The old elementary test will be offered for the last time in July, 2013. If you have completed the majority of the course work required for the Elementary Distributed minor, you should take the test prior to that date.
- The new elementary test will be offered for the first time in April 2013. If you will have completed the majority of the new course work, you should plan to take the new test.

