

May 2009

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 will be phased in over the next several semesters, with several new courses already being 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.
- ❖ 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, you have some choices and may want to opt to take the new courses when possible.

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?

No formal deadline has been established. It is expected that a deadline will be established sometime in Fall 2009 and will be communicated to all elementary education students. That deadline will most likely be a few years into the future and will give our students plenty of time to use their completed course work.

To whom should I speak 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 Minor Course Change Information

Previous Elementary Minor Courses	Revised Elementary Minor Courses	Transition Guidelines
English Requirement: ENG 308 – Teaching Reading: The Necessary Skills	ENG 308 – Teaching Reading: The Necessary Skills	No Change
Mathematics Requirement: MTH 221 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I and MTH 222 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II OR MTH 223 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers III	MTH 221 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I and MTH 222 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II OR MTH 223 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers III	No Change
Fine Arts Requirement: ART 230 – Art for the Classroom Teacher OR MUS 350 – Music for the Classroom Teacher	New Course: MAT 300 – Music, Art and Theater for Elementary Education (offered beginning Fall 2009)	If ART 230 or MUS 350 has been taken, requirement is considered complete. If neither/none has been taken, MAT 300 must be completed beginning Fall 2009. ART 230 and MUS 350 will no longer be offered beginning Fall 2009.
Language Arts Requirement Options: ENG 307 – Teaching Writing: Elementary OR ENG 309 – Teaching Literature to Children OR WRT 219 – Introduction to Creative Writing OR Any foreign language course	New Course: ENG 302 – Introduction to Language Arts (offered beginning Fall 2010)	If any of the language arts options have been taken, the requirement is considered complete. If none of the courses have been taken, ENG 302 will be offered as an option starting in Fall 2010. Students should be recommended to take ENG 307 or 309 until ENG 302 is offered. Beginning Fall 2010, ENG 302 will be the only option for this requirement.
Physical Education/Health Requirement: CTH 366 – Drama in Education OR PED 305 – Movement Education	New Courses: PED 265 – Teaching Health in Elementary Schools (Offered in Fall 2009 and Winter 2010) PED 266 – Movement and Dance (Offered as PED 280 – Movement Education sections 05, 06, 07, 08 in Fall 2009 and Winter 2010) CTH 366 has been incorporated into MAT 300 listed above.	If either PED 305 or CTH 366 has been taken, the requirement is considered complete. If neither has been taken, students are now required to take both PED 265 and 266 to fulfill the new requirements. PED 305 and CTH 366 will no longer be offered starting Fall 2009.

<p>Laboratory Science: Take one laboratory natural science course from the 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>New Requirements: SCI 225 – Integrated Life Sciences for K-8 SCI 226 – Integrated Physical Sciences for K-8</p>	<p>If any one of the laboratory science course has been taken, the requirement is considered complete.</p> <p>If no laboratory science course has been taken, the new courses are required beginning Fall 2010 and strongly encouraged beginning Fall 2009.</p>
<p>Social Sciences: 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>New Course: SST 309 – Social Studies for Elementary Teachers (offered beginning Fall 2010)</p>	<p>If any one of the approved courses has been taken, the requirement is considered complete.</p> <p>If requirement has not been satisfied, students may choose from any course from the approved list until SST 309 is offered beginning in Fall 2010</p> <p>Starting Fall 2010, SST 309 will be the recommended course for this requirement.</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 clasadvs@gvsu.edu, or by stopping in the Center located in C-1-140 MAK.
- **This minor does not fulfill the elementary minor requirements for students majoring in Psychology/Special Education.**