

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 0715F
Date of Senate Approval 11/05/15

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 3: **Remove PSYC 319 from the requirements for
Elementary Education (K-6), and add EDUC 230**

Effective Date: Fall 2015

1. Delete: On page 128, items I and II under **Elementary School Licensure (K-6):**

- I. Required courses in Education—40 hours, including: EDUC 210, 211, 215, 219, 220, 317, 322, 325, 340, 344, 388, 455, 456.
- II. Required courses outside Education—9 hours, including: MATH 211, 215; PSYC 319.

Add: On page 128, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in Education—43 hours, including: EDUC 210, 211, 215, 219, 220, 230, 317, 322, 325, 340, 344, 388, 455, 456.
- II. Required courses outside Education—6 hours, including: MATH 211, 215.

Impact: Because the Department of Education seeks to remove PSYC 319 as a requirement for the Elementary Education licensure program, the addition of EDUC 230, Introduction to Exceptional Children, will not add any hours. EDUC 230 will be offered beginning Fall 2015 as part of the new Special Education license.

Rationale: The Department of Education surveys public school partners each semester in a variety of ways. The department has heard overwhelmingly from our public school partners, and particularly over the past two years, about the need for more student preparation in the areas of classroom management, responsive teaching and methods, and serving the needs of special education students. In fact, our partners state that these are the primary issues facing all teachers, and especially those new to the profession. Additionally, we survey all of our licensure program completers after they have finished student teaching by bringing them to campus for a day to finish requirements for student teaching, which includes completion of the survey to ensure 100% completion. On the survey of Spring 2014 completers alone, 27/52 respondents cited classroom management as their biggest area of need for additional preparation. Their comments point to the need for a full course on classroom management, and a field experience dedicated to the topic. The need for full courses on meeting the needs of diverse students has been a frequent request by numerous program completers for a number of years.

Over the past few years, EDUC 325 (an existing course in the K-6 licensure program) has been expanded greatly to cover classroom management and numerous topics related to meeting the needs of all learners, and especially those experiencing special needs, in the K-6 classroom. As a result, the course has a great

deal of depth and not enough breadth related to these very important topics related to learners experiencing special needs. EDUC 325, given the course title, is intended to focus on classroom management and responsive teaching methods. Elementary classrooms have changed over the past two years to include the necessity for implementing new strategies and programs related to how responsive teaching methods are defined. This new definition involves the use of specific assessment data according to a standardized assessment system that is closely related to how the elementary classroom is managed given student academic as well as personal development. Therefore, the Department of Education is realigning EDUC 325 in order that concepts that are more in line with the classroom of today can become the focus. This means, then, that students seeking an Elementary Education license can learn the specific methods they need related to both the integrated system of classroom management and related assessment based on development by taking EDUC 325. This will eliminate the need for Elementary Education licensure students to take PSYC 319, and avoid duplication of topics and added hours. EDUC 230, Introduction to Special Education, is a new course which will be offered as part of the Department of Education's new licensure area in K-12 Special Education that will begin in Fall 2015. The addition of this course to those required for Elementary Education licensure will remove the requirement for the extensive topic related to meeting the needs of all learners in the K-6 classroom to be covered in EDUC 325.

The Department of Education struggled with the decision to eliminate PSYC 319 from the K-6 licensure program, because we very much value the course. However, the aforementioned information points to the need for the addition of a Special Education course. In the interest of attempting to avoid adding hours to the K-6 program, realignment of EDUC 325 can be completed and eliminate the need for PSYC 319 and the addition of hours.