

CENTRAL OREGON
community college

Committee RECOMMENDATION FORM



Academic Affairs



Institutional Support



Student Affairs



College Affairs

Recommendation:

The Academic Affairs committee is recommending the implementation of a new short-term certificate in Developmentally Appropriate Learning Environments.

Rationale:

Overview:

The Developmentally Appropriate Learning Environments (DALE) certificate is designed to support students seeking careers in environments that serve young children and families. The DALE certificate is a step along the pathway to the AAS in Early Childhood Education, and it invites students to apply theories of developmentally appropriate practice within early learning environments.

Students with intentions to seek higher degrees or career opportunities in settings serving children and families may use the DALE Studies Certificate to demonstrate coursework and field placement experience. Credits will apply toward the Head Start Reauthorization Act for *highly qualified* lead and assistant teachers and family advocates. Students considering the Early Childhood Development program through Southern Oregon University may apply all courses to SOU program requirements.

Potential Students:

Many regional programs providing programming for young children follow the Head Start mandates for determining *highly qualified* staff. In addition to the influence of Head Start, the Oregon Online Registry is a voluntary program in which early childhood educators may submit evidence of training, work experience and college coursework to determine increased *Steps* for professional development. Currently, COCC is one of several community colleges in Oregon that recognizes the Oregon Registry and articulates courses (up to 11 credits from ED 140, 151, and 262) for students with a *Step 7* or higher.

Another subset of our current ECE students include students intending to transfer to bachelor programs, including Southern Oregon's Early Childhood Education program and Oregon State University's Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) program. Students on this path may or may not already have an associate or bachelor degree. Additionally, we have a few students every year entering with degrees but lacking the classroom experience required for admittance into the MAT program.

A third group of students who will benefit from this potential certificate include our English language learners within the ECE program. Following the support of the Partners in Practice Grant, the ECE program has seen an increase in the number of students who declare Spanish as their first language. With grant and institutional support, we have been able to offer a number of our ECE classes in Spanish. Currently, we have a cohort of approximately 40 students who have taken ED 140, 151, 112, and 152 in their first language. This has allowed a historically underserved population to have access to critical coursework to support their employment in Central Oregon's early learning programs. The DALE would offer a completion step for those students seeking livable wages as early learning professionals while increasing their English language skills.

Alignment with Institutional Goals:

These combined professional efforts lead to an increased number of students returning to college classrooms to expand their coursework and background in specific areas within the early childhood education field. Many of these students will, eventually, earn their Associate degrees; however, many of them do not require a degree to meet their goals. Overall, a certificate supports SEM target objectives one and two for course and program offerings and service to the college district.

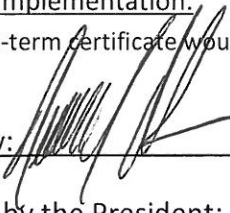
In an effort to meet student and institutional needs, as outlined by the SEM 2012-2014 recommended targets, a certificate option will support retention by providing a short-term goal that is achievable in 3 terms. A certificate option provides persistence in that all courses will apply to both AAS and AAOT degrees should the student wish to pursue the program pathway. The certificate will support completion by expanding CTE major certificates and career pathways that may stand alone or articulate with AAS degrees.

History:

Courses for the new DALE certificate are imbedded in the AAS degree in Early Childhood Education. All courses are currently offered at COCC with the exception of ED 176 (Pending Approval).

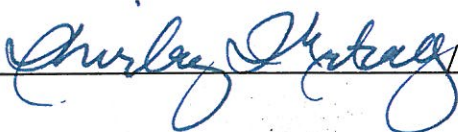
Timeline for Implementation:

The new short-term certificate would be included in the 2016-2017 catalog and offered fall 2016.

Submitted by:  /s/ Chair, Academic Affairs Date: 4/4/16

Action taken by the President: Approved Denied Tabled

Comments:

 /s/ President, COCC Date: 4/13/16