

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
June 14-15, 2012

OFFICE OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

19. Approval of Request from Belhaven University for a Master of Education Degree Program in Reading and Literacy as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

Background Information:

Belhaven University is requesting approval of a new Master of Education degree program in Reading and Literacy. This request was approved by all internal and external reviewers. This item was approved by the Certification Commission at the May 4, 2012 meeting. This program will prepare teachers at the graduate level to become reading instructors and/or coaches in the schools. Many graduates have asked for courses and degrees in the reading area for both elementary and secondary programs. Belhaven feels that this will increase the pool of reading specialist in our schools. Similar programs are offered at Mississippi University for Women, Blue Mountain and other Institutions of Higher Learning in our state.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

Our Standard is Christ

November 2, 2011
Gail Gettis, Division Director
Teacher and Administrator Preparation
Mississippi Department of Education
359 N. West St./P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Dear Ms Gettis:

I have enclosed the request from Belhaven University to submit program approval information to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Licensure and Certification and Development. We have provided appropriate materials for consideration to the Commission for a new degree program: Master of Education in Reading/Literacy and an endorsement in Reading at the graduate level.

Please let me know if these are all the materials you need for this review. I will be glad to supply any additional information that you may need.

We look forward to presenting our program to the commission and will await word as to when that presentation will occur.

Sincerely,

Sandra Rasberry, Ed. D.
Dean, School of Education
Belhaven University

School of Education

Dr. Sandra Rasberry, Dean www.belhaven.edu

1500 Peachtree Street, Box 315 Jackson, MS 39202-1789
strasberry@belhaven.edu 601-968-8703 Fax 601-974-6461



teach_learn_live

Office of Teacher and Administrator Preparation
Mississippi Department of Education
359 N. West Street/P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771
601.359.3631

EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

Institution: Belhaven University Date Submitted: 11-2-
2011 Submitted by: Dr. Sandra Rasberry Commission

Approval Date: _____

State Board Approval Date: _____

Proposed date of Program Implementation:

Proposal Request and Support Materials are provided for the approval to implement:

New Program Modifications to Existing Program Licensure Requirement

In addition to your current education program course list/description, you must provide:

1. A copy of the proposed new program
2. The current program with clear indication of proposed modifications
3. Any evidence of institutions (state, regional or national) with same or a similar course of study
4. Evidence of qualified faculty
5. Any other documentation that further supports the proposal

Please state your specific request:

Belhaven University would like to add a Master's of Education in Reading/Literacy degree program to our current MED and MAT programs. This degree will prepare teachers at the graduate level to become reading instructors and/or coaches in the schools. Many graduates have asked for courses and degrees in the reading area for both elementary and secondary programs. We feel this will increase the pool of reading specialists in our schools. Similar programs are offered at MUW, Blue Mountain College as are other similar programs at IHLs in our state.

State rationale: Public schools are calling upon teachers at all levels to be better prepared to act as teachers of reading. This degree will offer advanced coursework and training for both

elementary and secondary teachers to provide specialized reading instruction to students in our schools.

NOTE: Program approval is subject to standard review procedures that involve several entities and, therefore, timelines for final approval by the Office of Teacher and Administrator Preparation (TAP) may vary. After TAP approves the program, if it is a new or modified program or requires licensure changes, it may then be subject to approval by the Licensure Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development and the State Board of Education before candidates are eligible for Mississippi Teacher Licensure.

Program of Study

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY Master of Education in Reading/Literacy

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MED - 33-hour degree program requiring the following:

CORE EDUCATION COURSES (Required: 9 credit hours)

EDU 610 - Educational Research

EDU 612 - Curriculum Organization and Planning

EDU 625 - Instructional Leadership

READING/LITERACY (Required: 21 credit hours)

REA 608 - Early Literacy Instruction

REA 611 - Literature and Literacy

REA 617 - Content Area Literacy

REA 622 - Teaching Reading Skills and Comprehension

REA 627 - Middle Grade Literacy (4-8)

REA 629 - Literacy Assessment, Diagnosis and Remediation

REA 632 - Practicum in Reading (3-6 hrs)

ELECTIVES: (3 HOURS):

REA 620 - Reading and Writing across the Curriculum

REA 633 - Current Trends and Research in Reading

EDU 630 - Diagnostic and Remedial Strategies

EDU 634 - Designing Instruction

Other similar programs in the state include: MUW and Blue Mountain College and similar degrees at other IHLs.

Course Descriptions:

REA 608 Early Literacy Instruction Concepts, materials and teaching strategies for oral language development and systematic early reading and writing instruction, specific to concepts about print, phonemic awareness, and phonics.

REA 611 Literature and Literacy (3). A study of literary materials and resources that is appropriate for elementary instruction. Emphasis will be given to integrating literature into all curriculum areas. Identifies resources and research-based practices that create language rich environments.

REA 617 **Content Area Literacy (3).** The methods and materials for teaching reading through the content areas in secondary schools; attention is given to techniques of diagnosing difficulties, teaching reading skills and comprehension with a focus on individualizing instruction, and assessing student achievement.

REA 622 **Teaching Reading Skills and Comprehension (3).** A study in the selection and use of materials and methods of teaching reading in the elementary schools with emphasis upon current research. Research based teaching strategies for oral language development and early systematic reading and writing instruction specific to vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension and scaffolding of the reading process.

REA 627 **Middle Grade Reading (3)** A study of reading-thinking skills, concepts, methods, and materials for literacy instruction and learning for upper elementary and young adolescents. Emphasis will be on comprehension, strategy instruction, assessment and writing for diverse student populations.

REA 629 **Literacy Assessment, Diagnosis and Remediation (3).** A study of reading problems, assessment procedures and use of test results; planning individualized instructional programs and differentiated instruction for problem readers or English language learners. Includes case study with field experience.

REA 632 **Practicum in Education (3).** Provides directed field-based application of effective research in reading instruction and methodology to prevent reading difficulties and promote reading progress with diverse populations.

Electives:

REA 620 - **Reading and Writing across the Curriculum (3)** The purpose of the course is to develop educational leaders who understand the importance of balancing the processes of authentic reading and writing across content areas of the curriculum, and provide an understanding of various reading and writing strategies which will make the process and product meaningful for their students. Attention will be focused on various instructional approaches to equip teachers in producing life-long learners.

REA 633 – **Current Trends and Research in Reading (3)** To familiarize teachers with current trends and theories concerning reading instruction and with theoretical proposed to advance reading success. Emphasis will be on research with best practices and contemporary issues of teaching reading and the development of effective instructional practices.

EDU 630 – **Diagnostic and Remedial Strategies (3)** This course is a study of diagnostic instruments and procedures for identifying learning problems and planning remedial instruction appropriate for all students in all subject areas. Study of appropriate remediation strategies for reading and comprehension of content material.

EDU 634 - **Designing Instruction (3)** The course focuses on the development of curricular units that promote student understanding through the integration of content from a variety of

disciplines, the application of inquiry method, and the use of appropriate technologies as tools for teaching and learning. The purpose of the course is to identify desired performance outcomes, design valid and reliable assessments and plan effective learning experiences. Emphasis is placed on design principles that enhance student understanding of enduring concepts and the application of these design principles in the education setting.

Faculty Qualifications: Belhaven has both qualified full time faculty and adjunct faculty in the area of reading.

Full- time faculty include: Dr. Claudia Nisbett; Dr. Sandra Rasberry and Dr. Dorothy Stokes. We have three adjunct faculty are also qualified to teach reading at the graduate level.

Dr. Claudia Nisbett - A full time faculty member at Belhaven University. She holds certification as an administrator and elementary teacher. Experience: has served as a classroom teacher and principal. Served as the Chair of the Education Department at Faulkner University. Serves on the Mississippi Higher Education Literacy Council and was appointed to the Reading Practitioners committee for MDE to evaluate reading programs. She currently teaches literacy courses at both undergraduate and graduate level at Belhaven University. She has presented numerous times at state and national reading association conventions.

Dr. Sandra Rasberry: Dean of the School of Education: Holds endorsements in elementary education; school administration; special education; earned a specialist concentration in reading; a school psychometrist. Experience: Taught elementary school and special education; taught college diagnostic reading classes, serves on the Mississippi Higher Education Literacy Council.

Dr Dorothy Stokes: Chair, Undergraduate Teacher Education: A full time faculty member who holds elementary education and administrative certification. Experience: Has taught lower elementary school and served as a school administrator. She is a member of the Mississippi Higher Education Literacy Council and serves as a consultant for the Mississippi Department of Education. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate reading courses, and has made numerous presentations at reading conferences.