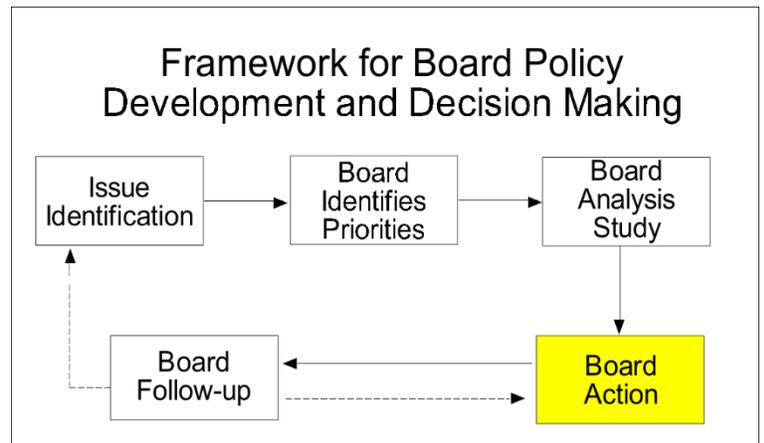


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

August 4, 2022



Agenda Item: Clarke University Offering Fully Online; Teacher K-6 and K-8 teacher preparation program and endorsements leading to teaching licensure.

State Board Priority: Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

State Board Role/Authority: The State Board of Education sets standards and approves practitioner preparation programs, and substantial change requests based on those standards. Iowa Code section 256.7(3) and 281 Iowa Administrative rule 79.5.

Presenter(s): Maryam Rod Szabo, Consultant
Bureau of Community Colleges

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board awards full approval to the Clarke University to offer an accelerated, online, elementary education program including K-6 and K-8 endorsements until the next review of the unit scheduled for 2025-2026.

Background: Clarke University plans to offer an accelerated fully online elementary education program. Under 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 79 Clarke will be able to meet the requirements for a bachelor's degree and licensure. The program is offered in accelerated and online format but there will be no curricular changes regardless of the delivery format.

Educator Preparation Program Change Approval Report

Clarke University to offer accelerated, and online
elementary education program K-6 and K-8 endorsements



Presented to the board 08/04/2022

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State Board of Education

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Overview

According to rule 281—79.9(256) Upon application by an institution, the director is authorized to approve minor additions to, or changes within, the curricula of an institution's approved practitioner preparation program. When an institution proposes a revision, which exceeds the primary scope of its programs, including revisions which significantly change the delivery model(s), the revisions shall become operative only after having been approved by the state board. Approval of any institution's application for adding the dyslexia specialist endorsement must include approval by the Iowa reading research center.

Description of Proposed Significant Delivery Model Changes

In response to requests from the local school district, Clark is offering additional online options and an accelerated pace to their current teacher preparation program. Organized in cohorts, the students may take up to three asynchronous online courses at a time with each course being 8 weeks in duration.

Courses that include a clinical component, including student teaching, will require students to arrange for an experience near their location. This clinical placement will be approved, and completed hours verified by the department's Placement Coordinator. Clarke University (Clarke) faculty will oversee all clinical experiences and supervise these either in-person and/or virtually. The same requirements are expected of online students. These include a log of hours, disposition forms, observation forms, as well as oral and written assessment using the InTASC standards.

This program, referred to as the Accelerated Teacher Certification Pathway (ATCP), is open to all adult learners with an associates or bachelor's degree seeking teaching licensure. While the current pathway focuses on the K-6 Elementary Classroom and K-8 Reading endorsements, it does include additional K-8 endorsement areas. The hallmark of this new program is that it still maintains the approved curriculum of current on-campus programs that is approved by the Board of Educational Examiners and Iowa Department of Education for Clarke.

Approval Recommendation:

Program is Recommended for Approval

Summary of the Department Review of Program Change Report

1. Chapter 79 Governance and Resources Standard, IAC 281-79.10 is Met

There are no changes to the governance of the program. The new online teacher certification program will be an additional task for the department chair to oversee to ensure quality of instruction and pedagogy. An additional visiting faculty member will be hired to share in the instruction of the courses in addition to the current tenured track faculty who are providing instruction in this program. To ensure the equity of resources provided in different modalities the unit will request constant feedback from cooperating teachers in both methods and student teaching courses. In addition to probable in-person visits, students will videotape their teaching and will debrief and receive feedback from faculty assigned to the clinical courses. The curriculum will not change.

2. Chapter 79 Diversity Standard IAC 281-79.11 is MET

The unit will continue to explore, promote and discuss diversity in all its aspects. Clarke will continue to meet the requirements of the standards for diversity. Through EDUC 119: Human Relations and Building Inclusive Communities, students will participate in at least eight hours of diverse educational work. In addition, the clinical supervisor and the advisor for the online students will work together to ensure diversified teaching experiences.

The proposed program changes will not impact the diversity of the current program as this is a separate cohort of students; however, it will increase the accessibility of the courses and programs for those currently working fulltime.

3. Chapter 79 Faculty Standard IAC 281-79.12 is MET

The chair of the department assigns teaching assignments based upon faculty members' license endorsements and degrees. All faculty follow the evaluation guidelines set forth in the Clarke University Employee Manual aligned with the Chapter 79 faculty qualification requirements.

4. Chapter 79 Assessment Standard IAC 281-79.13 is MET

Candidates assessment will include formative and summative assessment and they will receive feedback throughout the program. Additional data collection tools regarding InTASC-aligned assessments are built into the methods courses, while there is minor impact on data management and analysis the program assessment will continue to follow the approved program approval process.

5. Chapter 79 Clinical Standard IAC 281-79.14 is MET

While the students in the online teacher certification program are expected to secure their own clinical locations for both methods and student teaching, Clarke will continue to have contract with schools hosting candidates and ensure the quality of the placements. The placement officer will provide assistant and guidance throughout the process. In order to ensure requirements are met, Clarke will provide faculty supervision that includes regular virtual and/or on-site visits. The unit will ensure the requirements of clinical and student teaching placement, assessment and experiences are met according to chapter 79 requirements.

The clinical requirements for the online program will be the same as the current programs as outlined in the Clarke University Education Department Teacher Education Handbook.

6. Chapter 79 Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions Standard IAC 281-79.15 is MET

The chair of the Education Department will continue to oversee the online program curriculum, Despite modifications in modality, the curriculum of the current programs will remain unchanged.