

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

August 3, 2023



- Agenda Item:** Viterbo University Substantial Change Proposal
- State Board Priority:** Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
- State Board Role/Authority:** The State Board of Education sets standards and approves practitioner preparation programs based on those standards. Iowa Code section 256.7(3) and 281 Iowa Administrative rule 79.5.
- Presenter(s):** Stephanie S. TeKippe, Consultant
Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness
- Attachment(s):** One
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board award full approval to Viterbo University, Iowa Center to offer an online administrator preparation program in addition to the existing hybrid administrator preparation program.
- Background:** The Iowa Department of Education educator preparation staff reviewed Viterbo University's application for program change. Viterbo University has met all Chapter 79 standards. Recommendation for full approval until the next site visit in 2026-2027.



Educator Preparation Program Approval Report

Viterbo University, Iowa Center

Substantial Change: Addition of an Online

Administrator Preparation Program

Consent Agenda Item for the Board of Education

August 3, 2023

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

State Board of Education

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Division of Higher Education

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Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness

Jeremy Varner, Bureau Chief
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Stephanie TeKippe, Consultant

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Overview

According to Iowa Code 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 that 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 of Education. Approval of any institution's application for adding the dyslexia specialist endorsement must include approval by the Iowa Reading Research Center.

Background and History

Viterbo University, incorporated in 1960, is a non-profit institution with a strong liberal arts tradition. The university's main campus is located in LaCrosse, WI, with satellite campuses in West Des Moines, IA; Cedar Rapids, IA; Waterloo, IA; and Ottumwa, IA.

In 2007, the Iowa State Board of Education granted a full five-year program approval for an initial administrator PK-12 Principal/Supervisor of Special Education License. The program was recently reapproved in January 2021. The Master of Arts in Education with PK-12 Principal/Supervisor of Special Education requires 36 credits of core coursework.

Description of Proposed Substantial Change

Viterbo University has proposed the addition of a fully online administrator preparation program. The offering leads to fulfillment of endorsement #189: PK-12 Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor. Viterbo University is currently offering a hybrid (asynchronous and synchronous components) administrator preparation program. Viterbo University plans to offer both delivery models, if approved, to serve Iowa candidates.

Approval Recommendation

The Iowa Department of Education (Department) recommends the program for approval.

Summary of Department Review

Selected Commendations

- Viterbo University, Iowa Center has a history of providing service by offering affordable education.
- Viterbo University has a governance system in place for online education, including an instructional designer to assist in transitioning face-to-face courses to an online modality with a focus on candidate engagement.
- A cohort model is utilized for candidates to navigate the program with diverse candidates around the state.

Standards

Governance and Resources Standard

The Department considers the Governance and Resources standard to be MET.

There were no compliance issues identified in the Governance standard.

Overview: Viterbo University, having multiple online offerings, will utilize the current governance and resources in the proposed online version of the program with a commitment to increased financial resources for possible growth due to increased accessibility. The standards and assessments, previously approved by the Department and Board of Educational Examiners, remain the same. Viterbo University is current with Iowa College Aid for postsecondary school authorization to offer distance education.

Diversity Standard

The Department considers the Diversity standard to be MET.

There were no compliance issues identified in the Diversity standard.

Overview: The additional program will reduce geographical barriers to actively recruit candidates and instructors across the state; therefore, providing increased diversity opportunities.

Faculty Standard

The Department considers the Faculty standard to be MET.

There were no compliance issues identified in the Faculty standard.

Overview: Faculty qualifications and oversight will remain the same with additional technological and innovative skills being required for the online program. Faculty must be approved prior to teaching in an online modality by successfully completing Viterbo University's "Best Practices Online Teaching" course. An instructional designer will be available for faculty assistance. Professional development opportunities and funds are available for full-time and adjunct faculty in the proposed program.

Assessment Standard

The Department considers the Assessment standard to be MET.

There were no compliance issues identified in the Assessment standard.

Overview: Current assessment plans and practices will remain and be utilized for the proposed program. The Program Director and Assessment Specialist will evaluate the assessment data from both delivery modalities for program and course review.

Administrator Clinical Standard

The Department considers the Clinical standard to be MET.

There were no compliance issues identified in the Administrator Clinical standard.

Overview: The clinical standards, expectations and processes will remain the same as will the qualifications of mentors and supervisors of candidates. Clinical experiences are aligned with coursework and the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards. Clinical experiences include varied PK-12 placements and diverse populations.

Administrator Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions Standard

The Department considers the Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions (KSD) standard to be MET.

There were no compliance issues identified in the Administrator KSD standard.

Overview: The curriculum and assessment, as approved by the Department and Board of Educational Examiners, remain unchanged and is aligned with NELP standards. The Program Director will continue oversight.