



June 5, 2006

Mr. Steve Stegink
Higher Education Coordinator
Office of Professional Preparation Services
Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Steve:

I am writing to provide University of Detroit-Mercy's response to the review panel's recommendations regarding our Elementary Mathematics endorsement program (EX) as dated January 18, 2006.

Reviewers indicated that the Elementary major and minor may each be three credits short of the required credit minimums because of the elective option of CSC 171 (Introduction to Computer Science). Please note that our Form XX and program requirements have been updated to reflect the removal of this course as a possible elective. Reviewers will now find that our Elementary Math major actually exceeds the 30-credit minimum and our Elementary Math minor exceeds the 20-credit minimum requirement.

Reviewers also noted that the Elementary Math program did not meet the following standards:

- ∞ *2.3.1 Formative and summative methods to determine students' understanding of mathematics and to monitor their own teaching effectiveness. How do you ensure that teacher candidates can carefully align their instructional and assessment practices?*

Reviewers asked for "additional specific narrative, and expanded, narrative...that explains how the institution ensures teacher candidates can carefully align their instructional and assessment practices." We have responded to reviewer comments by doing as suggested and expanding our narrative for that standard, specifically drawing on the course requirements of EDU 449 (Methods and Materials of Instruction for Math in Elementary and Middle Schools)

- ∞ *2.5 Programs prepare prospective teachers who use a variety of physical and visual materials for exploration and development of mathematical concepts in grades K-8, including...*

Reviewers indicated that the course referenced in addressing the standard was not required for minors or endorsement only teacher candidates. We have worked closely with the Math Department to identify four different courses required for minor and endorsement only teacher candidates that address this standard. In addition to that, EDU 449 (Methods and Materials of Instruction for Math in Elementary and Middle Schools) is required for both minors and endorsement only candidates and that was not noted in our previous submission. We have highlighted this course requirement in our narrative for this standard.

In addition to the standards listed above, reviewers were also concerned about the course load of one Math Department faculty member. The updated Instructional Faculty table and current syllabi reflect a more accurate representation of the distribution of course load across the Math Department faculty.

There was also some confusion on the part of reviewers because courses referenced in the Standards Matrix were not listed on Form XX as either required courses or electives. We have chosen to revamp our Standards Matrix so that only required courses are utilized in the response narrative. We hope this will make the Standards Matrix easier for reviewers to interpret during the review process.

Our response for Elementary Mathematics, dated June 5, 2006, can be viewed at:
<http://www.udmercy.edu/accredreport/mathematics.html>

We look forward to receiving comments from reviewers and the Michigan Department of Education regarding our Elementary Mathematics endorsement program.

Sincerely,

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