



February 14, 2006

Ms. Sue Wittick
Higher Education Coordinator
Office of Professional Preparation Services
Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Sue:

I am writing to provide University of Detroit-Mercy's response to the review panel's recommendations regarding our Social Studies endorsement program as dated April 17, 2005.

Reviewers indicated that our program did not meet the following standards at the Elementary major and minor levels, nor at the Secondary major level:

∞ *Subpart (b) in standards 1, 2, 3, & 4*

Reviewers indicated that it was not evident to them that the pedagogical understandings associated with these standards were being explicitly addressed by our Elementary methods course (EDU 442) or our Secondary methods course (EDU 473). While, by their very nature, the development of pedagogical knowledge is at the heart of what methods courses are about, an honest review of the syllabi for these courses led us to believe that we could more explicitly state the goals, rationale, and activities associated with these courses. The EDU 442 syllabus was significantly revised to provide a stronger explicit emphasis on the modeling of appropriate pedagogical techniques for students and to better give students the opportunity to utilize and demonstrate their understandings of these techniques in five different lesson plans, each linked to one of the core components of the Social Studies curriculum.

While we believe the EDU 473 curriculum previously provided significant and robust opportunities for students to develop pedagogical understandings and techniques because of the course's strong foundation in the PASS approach to the teaching and learning of social studies, more explicitly stated opportunities are now provided for our students. This is most apparent in the now required portfolio assignment.

- ∞ *Information Processing - The teacher candidate is able to assist students to acquire information from books, maps, newspapers, data sets and other sources; organize and present the information in maps, graphs, charts and time lines; interpret the meaning and significance of information and use a variety of electronic technologies to assist in assessing and managing information.*

Upon review of the syllabi, and after conversation with the instructors for EDU 442 and EDU 473, it was determined that both of these courses could do a better job of assisting our students with the development of this competency, and both of our revised syllabi reflect a stronger emphasis on it.

- ∞ *6.1 Identifying and Analyzing Issues - The teacher candidate is able to assist students in stating issues clearly as questions of public policy, trace the origins of the issues, analyze various perspectives people bring to the issue and evaluate possible ways to resolve the issue.*
- ∞ *6.2 Group Discussion - The teacher candidate is able to assist students in engaging their peers in constructive conversation about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views, applying democratic values, anticipating consequences and working toward making decisions.*
- ∞ *6.3 Persuasive Writing – The teacher candidate is able to assist students in composing coherent written essays that express positions on public issues and justify the positions with reasoned arguments.*

Reviewers indicated that the section of the Standards Matrix that addressed these standards was not readable and that the standards did not appear to be met by either of our methods courses, EDU 442 or EDU 473. It is our hope that any technical glitches have been remedied so that reviewers can read our narratives in support of these standards. Not only do the EDU 442 and 473 courses explicitly address these standards as outlined in our revised Standards Matrix, but there are several other UDM courses, as referenced in the Standards Matrix, that we believe assist our students in the development of these competencies.

Our response for Social Studies, dated February 14, 2006, can be viewed at:
<http://www.udmercy.edu/accredreport/socialstudies.html>

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

Sincerely,

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