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Letter from Pat Chesebro, Academic Affairs re Revised Prerequisite for Student Teaching

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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To: Academic Senate

From: Pat Chesebro, Academic Affairs

Re: Revised Prerequisite for student teaching

Requested prerequisite: A student must successfully complete at ISU a minimum of four (4) semester hours of professional education approved by the appropriate education department at ISU prior to student teaching. If a student has acquired the professional competencies deemed essential by the department, this prerequisite may be waived by the Dean of the College of Education.*

Discussion: Although not stated, the prerequisite to student teaching is in actuality directed to secondary education majors, for it is almost impossible to imagine elementary or special education majors fulfilling all education requirements for student teaching at institutions other than ISU.

The request for the measure came originally from the Office of Professional Laboratory Experiences. Student teaching supervisors found increasing numbers of problems with student teachers who had satisfied professional education requirements elsewhere. Off-campus supervisors were expecting certain skills and experiences from our student teachers and when they did not find them they began questioning the program at ISU.

There are certain experiences, degrees of awareness, skills and knowledge relative to micro-teaching, instructional objectives, teaching performance tests, instructional planning, etc., that the College of Education and the Council on Teacher Education deem essential for student teaching. The prerequisite was developed to assure this.

Some may say the move was intended to prevent students from circumventing Professional Sequence—an attempt to protect an unpopular course. The Council on Teacher Education would like to affirm that their motivation was maintaining ISU's reputation for excellence in teacher education. Some students evading professional sequence are bypassing what the professional educators at ISU consider primary experiences. If a person has had these experiences elsewhere, ** the requirement could be waived. Advising within the appropriate education departments would assure the desired experiences—whether taken off or on campus—prior to student teaching.

There is no problem relative to community college transfers. Their programs do not include 16 hours of pre-student teaching courses.

NCATE was not a consideration in the deliberations. Concerns were strictly maintaining ISU's professional standards.

*Sentence added by Academic Affairs Committee.

**i.e., course credit at other Universities.