

**GSC CURRICULAR PROPOSAL FORM**  
**CURRICULAR PROPOSAL 2008-2009**  
**DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL: School of Education, All Regional Centers**

**Proposal I: MA-TL course offerings reconfigured**

It is proposed that GED689 Master's Project-Action Research be changed from an elective status to a required status in the core curriculum for the Master of Arts in Education: Concentration in Teaching and Learning (MA-TL).

This will include the restructuring of the core courses to include:

- 1) The prerequisite course GED689 (3 units), and
- 2) One unit of mentorship/supervised fieldwork (GED689P-1 unit, Credit/No Credit),
- 3) The reduction of GED639 Health Education from 3 units to 2 units.

Total course additions: 0

Total course deletions: 0

**Total unit additions: 1**

**Total unit deletions: 1**

Staffing increase/decrease: None

**Net Financial impact:** Zero increase in the total number of units required for the MA-TL therefore no additional financial burden. The input and output will balance due to the decrease of one unit for GED639 Health Education. GED689 as a required course will fit within the faculty load structure for the SoE at all regional centers. GED689P (1 unit) mentorship will be funded from the tuition which will be balanced by the reduction of GED639 Health Education from 3 units to 2 units when implemented in fall, 2009, for all new students. Current students will select GED689P as an elective.

Dr. Gary Railsback

School Of Education

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Signature Dean of the School/ Department Chair

## **School of Education**

### **Master of Arts in Education: Teaching and Learning**

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In addition, it is proposed that an Action Research Mentorship unit be added to the Reading Certificate concentration for MA-TL candidates who select the Reading Certificate focus.

Total units required for degree completion will remain the same for all candidates: 36 units  
If adopted, all MA-TL candidates will be required to complete one of the two options listed below:

1. GED 689 (3 units), Master's Project-Action Research with an Action Research Mentor assigned to each student in GED689P (1 Unit) required prerequisite: GED689
2. Reading Certificate Candidates will complete the current reading sequence: GED 693: Research Based Intervention Models and Strategies and GED698 Literacy Field Studies which will have the Action Research Project embedded in the course work.

#### **RATIONALE:**

##### **Proposal: MA-TL course offerings reconfigured**

In an effort to strengthen the MA-TL program the proposal to change GED689 Master's Project-Action Research from elective to a required status would add focus, provide a comprehensive culminating event, and increase the rigor of the MA-TL degree. The one unit of mentorship (GED689P) would provide guidance from a scholar currently involved in the field of education.

The Action Research Project would also positively impact learning in the K-12 classrooms taught by the MA-TL students. Previous completers of the MA-TL program have finished a series of courses which have resulted in a Master's degree being granted without a specific research project required. In the past some students opted to complete Action Research as part of their program plan. However, since Action Research was one choice for elective options, it was not consistently selected. In an effort to strengthen the program we are recommending that GED689 Master's Project-Action Research be included as a required core course for all MA-TL students. With this change GED639 Health Education will be adjusted from 3 units to 2 units. A one unit mentorship GED689P will align with GED689 Master's Project-Action Research to complete the required 36 units.

Without increase in staffing, the required Action Research Project would demonstrate aggregate knowledge and the K-12 teacher’s ability to apply “best practices” using current research. The anticipated long term effect would be improvement of student learning in the K-12 classroom. All Action Research Projects would be posted as signature assignments and utilized as an example of a summative assessment for the accreditation review process.

Currently, the only method available to track Action Research completion would be by hand. By including GED689P in the program plan we will have a method to track completion of all Action Research Projects electronically and insure a timely end to all projects (one year maximum). The mentors will also complete a required log (Appendix C) identifying the amount of time spent with the candidate and the Action Research processes addressed during each meeting.

The proposal will decrease the number of electives for MA-TL candidates by one course (3 units) and increase the required core by one course (3 units) thereby maintaining the current number of units required for completion of the MA-TL degree (36 units). The current core courses will remain with the inclusion of proposed changes identified in the following chart.

Course #	Current Course Name	Units	<u>Proposed</u>
GED628	Using Technology to Support Student Learning	3 Units	
GED639*	Health Education	3 Units	<u>2 Units</u>
GED642	Advanced Teaching of English Learners	3 Units	
GED672	Philosophy of Education	3 Units	
GED677	Teaching Special Populations	3 Units	

**PROPOSED CORE**

GED689 **	Master’s Project-Action Research	<u>3 Units</u>
GED689P ***	Master’s Project-Action Research Mentorship	<u>1 Unit</u>

**READING CERTIFICATE OPTION**

GED692	Standards and Instruction	3 Units	
GED693***	Research-Based Intervention Models and Strategies	2 Units	<u>3 Units</u>
GED694	Standards, Assessment and Instruction: Word Analysis, Fluency and Systematic Vocabulary Development	3 Units	
GED698	Special Studies in Education: Literacy Field Studies	1 Unit	

- \* Restructured to decrease by one unit
- \*\* Moved from elective to required with Mentorship included
- \*\*\*Restructured to increase by one unit

**TOTAL MA-TL UNITS REMAIN at 36**

**PROPOSED CHANGE: GED689 from Elective to Core**

The proposal that the course work be reconfigured to move GED689 Action Research to required status with a mentorship component and decrease GED639 Health Education by one unit aligns with the new projected Clear credential requirements and the Formative Assessment for California Teachers (FACT) and Formative Assessment System (FAS). As of 2009-2010 three units of the health course will no longer be a requirement for obtaining a Clear Credential. The FACT and FAS induction system will require Action Research and Inquiry Action Plans for all Induction candidates. The restructuring of the current courses would allow the inclusion of these important elements. All MA-TL students would be required to complete Action Research.

(Please disregard the \* in the following catalog copy which refer to items included in the current catalog.)

**Changes to Catalog Copy:**

The following catalog changes (underlined) will be necessary if the proposal is adopted:

**CORE COURSES**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
GED 628*	Using Technology to Support Student Learning (BTSA Standard 16)	3
<u>GED 639*</u>	<u>Health Education (BTSA Standard 16)</u>	<u>2</u>
GED 642*	Advanced Teaching of English Learners (BTSA Standard 19)	3
GED 672	Philosophy of Education	3
GED 677*	Teaching Special Populations (BTSA Standard 20)	3
GED 683*	BTSA Induction	3-6
GED683C**	Reflective Coaching	3
<u>GED 689</u>	<u>Master's Project</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GED 689P</u>	<u>Master's Project Mentorship</u>	<u>1</u>
	In-Depth Options	3- <u>9</u>
	<b>MASTER'S TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

IN-DEPTH OPTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING		
Reading Certification		
GED 692	Standards, Assessment and Instruction: Comprehending and Composing Written Language	3
<b>GED 693</b>	<b>Research-based Intervention: Models and Strategies</b>	<b>3</b>
GED 694	Standards, Assessment and Instruction: Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development	3
GED 698	Special Studies in Education: Literacy Field Studies (Reading Certificate Level)	1

## IMPACT

- **Student Financial Services:** None
- **Office of Records:** The total units will remain the same with the minimal impact being the tracking of GED689P-Master's Project Mentorship. Currently, the only method available to track Action Research completion has been with paper copies by hand. If GED689P is included in the program plan we will be able to track Action Research Projects electronically and insure a timely completion of the project (one year completion time from the end of the semester they take GED689) Discussions with Records personnel have indicated that the proposed plan would be compatible with their current processes.
- **Library resources:** Minimal since students will be accessing on line resources that currently exist. The graduate resource librarian may be called on to present information on available resources and has stated that she would be available to present the needed information.
- **Institution mission fit:** Fit will improve with regards to "sending". The opportunity for graduate students to engage K-12 students, improve student learning and apply their knowledge gleaned from coursework will be multiplied exponentially with the inclusion of an Action Research Project.
- **Enrollment:** Impact will be minimal with a potential for positive numbers/additional students due to the inclusion of Action Research requirements in the newly revised State Induction requirements (FACT and FAS).
- Students will be informed of the Action Research Project requirement by their advisor during the initial advising session when their program plan is completed. Time allotted for completion will be one year from the date of the initial Action Research course. Requests for extensions beyond the established one year deadline will require a formal request with documentation of progress included. Extensions requested beyond the year time period will follow the formal process established by GSC for thesis/project extensions and charges. It is anticipated that all students will complete the Action Research Project in one year or less with extensions (current extension policy and charges attached) being reviewed by a designated committee and granted infrequently as true exceptions.