

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education (BSE) Majors and Minors, 2020-2021

Date: 3/1/2021

Invited: Interim Provost Greg Cook; Interim AVC Kristin Plessel; Dean Robin Fox (Education & Prof. Studies); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Brooke Wincell; faculty and staff in the Early Childhood Education program; Program Review Team Chair Corey Davis; Program Review team members John Pruitt, Janine Tobeck, Denise Roseland, Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) The review team noted that the report was exceptionally well written. The additional information and context was helpful and appreciated. This program appears to be bucking the trend in terms of declining enrollment and lack of resources- instead, turning to hard work to address these challenges. Very impressive.
- b) The program shared its plans to seek national accreditation and noted the additional curriculum work needed to align to DPI licensure changes. Regardless, they are discussing additional programs, such as a Master's degree in ECE. They appreciated the review team comments.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – If the program secures accreditation and adds an MSE, the work load will increase.

What additional resources does the program need to support current workload and these possible additions?

- i) The program is mindful of the additional workload that would come with accreditation. They are a hardworking and committed group of professionals that believe strongly in the value of accreditation. The team meets weekly and a smaller group is preparing the materials. The program talks regularly with the Dean and believes that if enrollment continues to grow with additional programs, they can secure the resources needed to meet the demand.
- ii) Dean Fox was complimentary of the hardworking faculty and staff in the program. She noted the additional service contributions made by the team, including running the Early Childhood Conference- which draws national attention to the University. Dean Fox fully supports the work of the program.
- iii) Provost Cook noted the exceptional growth in the program during a precarious time in University enrollment. He commented on the importance of prioritizing programs, such as ECE, to ensure they have the resources needed to continue to grow and succeed.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Continue work in assessment planning. Report out on data collected on program SLOs, and how the data is used to help make program decisions.

Recommended Action #2

Continue to work with College Dean to secure resources necessary to work on grants and program development.

Recommended Result:

Continuation without qualification

Next Self-study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2026, and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2026

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.