

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Request for New Credit Certificate Program
Literacy and Learning Certificate

Summary of Proposal:

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

The rationale is clear and outlines the need to this graduate certificate to be offered at IUPUI. The 15 hour certificate includes the basics for an understanding of the “literacy and learning” focus reading pedagogy and researched options of teaching skills to young children.

2. Is the program academically sound?

The proposal draws on references to state educational guidelines and addresses the needed areas of study for the graduate students enrolled in elementary education. It is less clear how the certificate applies to the “informal educators.” Non-degree graduate students can apply for admission to the certificate program, then after six hours of credit be advised as to their graduate status. Under proposal item VIII, it becomes clear that the same courses can be taken for the “same certificate” as an undergraduate certificate. I would suggest that these statements be removed from the proposal since “this” proposal is for a graduate certificate.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

The faculty resources are clearly stated as available by engaging three tenure-track faculty and three clinical faculty members. No mention is made of individual resumes, degrees or experience of these six persons. Adding a briefly description of these faculty would be helpful.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

To my knowledge and by reading the proposal statements, there seem to be no conflicts created by this certificate.

5. Recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal:

The project should be approved with a few modifications in wording to strengthen the points mentioned earlier. The area of reading readiness and comprehension is a major concern to parents, communities, public schools and the State of Indiana. The certificate title, *literacy and learning*, addresses an approach to designate elementary teachers as certified to become leaders in reading skills and literacy.