

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Program Description. Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics to be offered by Indiana University East at Richmond

Summary of Proposal:

The IU East School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is proposing offering a Masters of Arts in Teaching Mathematics. The degree is designed to meet the need for mathematics teachers at both the secondary level and the post-secondary level. The proposal cites the Commission for Higher Education's analysis of the need for a greater number of teachers who are qualified to teach dual-credit or AP courses in Indiana high schools and who can also meet similar demands in the state's growing community college system. The proposal presents compelling evidence to support its claim that the portion of the state served by IU East faces extraordinary educational challenges, not the least of which is to prepare more teachers to offer basic college level mathematics courses. IU East would achieve its goals by offering a two-track program designed to serve students who currently have a teaching license and those who are seeking a teaching license. The curriculum consists of 36 credit hours distributed across courses offered by the Mathematics department and by the School of Education, some of which will be offered during the summer and others online. The proposal clearly outlines strategies for recruitment, implementation, and assessment of the program. Letters of support come from educators at both secondary and post-secondary levels who express enthusiastic support for the MAT in Mathematics, noting in particular the critical need for qualified teachers of mathematics.

- 1. Are the goals clear and achievable? Yes. Based on the need, especially within the IU East portion of the state, for teachers qualified to teach basic college mathematics courses at both the secondary level and the post-secondary level, the proposal outlines a program of study designed precisely to meet these needs, and no more. That is, the goals of the program are well-defined and clearly delineated, so much so that the proposal includes a statement of what it is not designed to do, namely to prepare for more advanced graduate study of mathematics. Further, the goals seem eminently achievable, based on the existing faculty and course offerings in mathematics and the partnership with the School of Education.**
- 2. Is the program academically sound? Yes. The program is designed to meet the requirements of Indiana University. In**

addition, the portion of the program that draws on the School of Education (The Transition to Teaching component) is accredited by the *National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education*.

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

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program? The IU East program offers a unique opportunity to its intended audience of in-service teachers, an opportunity that is not met by other public or private institutions in its area. Of course, on the plus side, the program in mathematics takes full advantage of the educational program of the IU East School of Education.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

I recommend this proposal be approved. Based on the need for teachers who are qualified to teach basic college level mathematics at the advanced secondary level and at the ever growing post-secondary level, especially in the state's community college system, and the fact that this need is most keenly felt in the region of the state served by IU East, the only question that needs to be addressed has to do with how the program can be implemented as soon as possible.