



March 11, 2021

To: OCCC Board of Education

From: Dan Lara, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Recommendation: 2021 March 18, BOE Agenda Item E.d.

Request adoption of the following: Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer – Elementary Education (AAOT – Elementary Ed)

Justification

In recognition of the high rates of K-12 teacher turnover in Lincoln County, Oregon Coast Community College, Tillamook Bay Community College, Lincoln County School District, and Western Oregon University jointly launched the Rural Teacher Education Pathway (RTEP) Project in Fall 2018 with financial support from Meyer Memorial Trust. Together, these education partners were able to build a sustainable, scalable, teacher education program that afforded students from Lincoln and Tillamook Counties they opportunity to pursue the first two years of a degree Elementary/Middle School Education here on the Coast, prior to transferring to WOU for year 3, and then returning to their local school districts for student teaching placements in year four. The ultimate aim is to build a more stable teacher workforce that is familiar with the challenges faced by local children and is more demographically representative of our changing communities. The RTEP program (OCCC to WOU) was initially launched under the umbrella of the existing OCCC Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) degree.

Concurrent to this work, in 2017, as a result of collaboration among the HECC, Oregon’s community colleges and public universities, and lawmakers, the State Legislature passed House Bill 2998, a bill designed to streamline transfer between Oregon’s community colleges and public universities. The legislation directs the HECC to bring together community colleges and universities to establish statewide “foundational curricula,” now called Core Transfer Maps, of at least 30 credits and major-specific “unified statewide transfer agreements,” now called Major Transfer Maps, that prepare students for transfer into one of Oregon’s public universities in a particular major.

Since HB 2998’s passage, the HECC has been working with community colleges, public universities, student associations, and other stakeholders to simplify and better align pathways for students to successfully transfer between institutions, maximize credits toward their degrees and certificates, and decrease time-to-degree completion.

The Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer – Elementary Education (AAOT – Elementary Education) is a recently completed Major Transfer Map that has been proposed for adoption across all Oregon Community Colleges. The AAOT – Elementary Education degree will enhance the existing RTEP program by continuing to meet local workforce needs in the Education Sector, while providing additional transfer opportunities for OCCC students seeking to complete bachelor’s degrees in Elementary Education at numerous state universities via distance education without ever leaving Lincoln County.

Labor Market Data for Elementary Education

Lincoln County School District has indicated an ~20% turnover of its teaching workforce each year, with many of the positions that are not retained having been filled by first- and second-year teachers from out-of-state. Burning Glass identified 21 unique Job-Postings in 2019 from Lincoln County and 61 unique Job-Postings from across the three-county region of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. Postings for individuals with a bachelor's degree started at \$42k/year.

Sustainability Planning

The differences between the proposed AAOT-Education and the RTEP program are minimal from the perspective of financial impact to the college (requiring the college to teach two additional courses per year), but provide greatly expanded opportunities for OCCC students to pursue bachelor's degrees via distance education or at neighboring 4-year institutions (e.g., Oregon State University). Currently OCCC employs a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time faculty member in Education/Developmental Ed who can take on the additional courses without increasing the position to fulltime. Lincoln County School District currently provides \$40,000/year to OCCC in support of the $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Education faculty position.

Proposed Degree

Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer – Elementary Education (AAOT – Elementary Education)

Core and Additional General Education transfer requirements		
Category	OCCC course(s)	Credits
<i>Writing – 8 credits minimum</i>		
1 st course	WR 121	4
2 nd course	WR 122	4
<i>Arts and Letters – 3 courses</i>		
1 st course	ENG 104	4
2 nd course	ART 115	4
3 rd course	ENG 216 recommended	4
<i>Social Sciences – 4 courses</i>		
1 st course	HST 201, 202, or 203	4
2 nd course	GEO 105	4
3 rd course	PSY 201	4
4 th course	PS 201	4
<i>Natural Sciences – 3 classes</i>		
1 st course	BI 101	4
2 nd course	GS 106 or GS 108	4
3 rd course	Recommended GS 106 or 108	4
<i>Mathematics</i>		
1 st course	MTH 211	4
Additional recommended	MTH 212, MTH 213	8
<i>Health</i>	HE 242 or HE 250 or HE/PE 295	3-4
<i>Communications</i>	COMM 111	4
Total Core Requirements		67-68 credits

Education courses transfer requirements		
Course	OCCC course(s)	Credits
Foundations of Education	ED 224	3
Applied Learning Theory	ED 131	3
Exceptional Learners	ED 251	3
Multicultural Practices	ED 124	3
Practicum	ED 290	3
Total Education Requirements		15 credits
Total Degree Requirements		90 credits

Elective Recommendations to reach 90 credits if needed		
Electives	OCCC course(s)	Credits
Second course in HST 2XX sequence	HST 201, HST 202, or HST 203	4
College Survival and Success	CG 100	3
Library research	LIB 101	1
Exploring Education Careers	ED 100	1
Additional Biology	BI 103	4
Introduction to Early Childhood Education	ED 120	4
Linguistics	LING 210	4