Proposed Changes to Educational Computing Minor
(Requests from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction)
Spring 2011

Approvals: Approved 4/7/11   Department of Curriculum and Instruction (Undergraduate Committee)
Approved 4/19/11   Department of Curriculum and Instruction (Faculty Vote)
Approved 4/26//11   College of Human Sciences Curriculum Committee
                               Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

REQUEST: There are three specific changes that are being requested for the Educational Computing Minor offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. First, we would request a name change from the Educational Computing Minor to the Learning Technologies Minor. The second involves changing the curriculum of the minor. That request is to delete C I 280A for 1.0 credit from the list of required classes. The third change is a direct result of deleting C I 280A - decrease the minor from 17 credits to 16 credits (as outlined below). It is proposed that these changes go into affect with the 2012-2013 catalog.

RATIONALE: The rationale for each proposed request will be explained.

1) Name change from Educational Computing Minor to Learning Technologies Minor

   The Educational Computing Minor was established in the 1980s at Iowa State when K-12 administrators, teachers and students began using computers in schools and classrooms. At that time, computers were the "technology" of choice in schools. Almost thirty years later, "computing" no longer accurately reflects what is happening in regard to technology use and integration in today's classrooms. Teachers and students are indeed using computers, but they are also using interactive whiteboards, visual presenters, projectors, mp3 players, assistive technologies (for students with special needs), digital cameras, iPads and response technologies such as clickers. Changing the name of the Educational Computing Minor to the Learning Technologies Minor more closely reflects how we are preparing preservice teachers at Iowa State University to use many types of technologies to support learning and teaching in today's classrooms.

   Note: The University of Northern Iowa offers a similar minor called Educational Technology. To our knowledge, the University of Iowa does not offer a minor in this area.

2) Delete C I 280A – Teacher Aide (1.0) credit from list of required classes

   C I 280A is a course that provides students, who are thinking about enrolling in or already enrolled in a teacher education program, to participate in a "pre-student teaching" or "teacher's aide" experience in K-12 classrooms. C I 280 courses are offered as various content area and/or theme-based K-12 classroom experiences (e.g., C I 280B – Educational Computing, C I 280E – Multicultural Youth Experience, C I 280M – Secondary Science) and require 24 contact hours in the field per credit hour taken.

   C I 280 credits are taken by ISU students to: 1) give them early K-12 classroom experiences during their teacher education program, and 2) to meet the Iowa Department of Education requirement of completing at least 10 hours of classroom observation before they are admitted to teacher education.

The Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs (chapter 79.13(1)) requires that "candidates admitted to a teacher preparation program participate in field experiences including both observation and participation in teaching activities in a variety of school settings and totaling at least 80 hours' duration, with at least 10 hours occurring prior to acceptance into the program." (see http://www.teacher.hs.iastate.edu/fieldexperiences.php)

Currently, C I 280A is taken by most secondary education majors (e.g., social studies, foreign language, English, science), but has not been a requirement for early childhood education (ECE) and elementary education (ElEd) majors. This is due to the fact that ECE and ElEd majors complete several practicum courses (C I 468 – Supervised Practicum in Teaching) associated with their methods courses to meet the number of classroom hours required prior to student teaching.

Thus, students already take this course (C I 280A) if required in their program and or they complete required practicum experiences in their own program. We no longer see the need to require taking C I 280A for this minor. Students will still be required to complete at least 1-credit of C I 280B as part of this minor for which students will be placed with teachers and technology directors who are working in instructional technology.

3) Decrease minor from 17 credits to 16 credits

Deleting the 1-credit 280A course decreases the total credits required for the minor from 17 credits to 16 credits. According to the Iowa State University catalog, "All minors require at least 15 credits, including at least 6 credits taken at Iowa State University in courses numbered 300 or above." This minor still meets those university requirements even after deleting this 200-level course.

Proposed Change
Required Classes (16 credits)
C I 201/202 Digital Learning in Classroom (3)
C I 280B Classroom Field Experience (1)
C I 302 Principles ad Practices of Digital Learning (3)
C I 407 Principles of Distance Education (3)
C I 454 Emerging Topics in Digital Learning (3)
Select 1 additional course (3 credits)
Com S 107 Applied Computer Programming
Com S 207 Programming I
Mat E 370 or Cpr E 370 Toying with Technology

* Minor requires 9 credits to be unique to the minor.

Current Curriculum of Minor
Required Classes – (17 credits)
C I 201/202 Digital Learning in Classroom (3)
C I 280A Classroom Field Experience (1)
C I 280B Classroom Field Experience (1)
C I 302 Prin. and Prac. of Digital Learning (3)
C I 407 Principles of Distance Education (3)
C I 454 Emerging Topics in Digital Learning (3)
Select 1 additional course (3 credits)
Com S 107 Applied Computer Programming
Com S 207 Programming I
Mat E 370 or Cpr E 370 Toying with Technology

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