

ASACR 7

Office of the President
February 21, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Teacher Preparation Program in Visual Impairments, in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Counselor Education, within the College of Education, beginning in the Fall 2020 Semester.

Background: The proposed program is designed to train Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) to work with children from preschool through graduation. The program, which would be supported by the Kentucky Department of Education, consists of ten core courses followed by a final course for student teaching or field experience. The program will be offered with synchronous classes; in-person, experiential exercises; and intensive summer courses at the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky School for the Blind.

Since the current teacher certification program in this area began in 2013, 61 TVIs have been certified. The current certificate program has been in high demand with severe TVI shortages in Kentucky and nationally. The proposed graduate degree program will replace the certificate program, a transition which recognizes the need for more advanced, higher-level instruction and increases student access to financial assistance. Students currently enrolled in the certificate program will have the option to continue toward a certificate or transfer to the graduate degree program. Cohorts of approximately 15 students are expected.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other_____