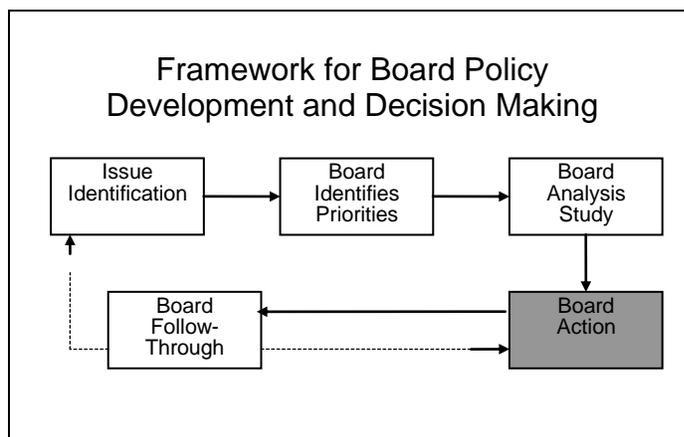


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

September 15, 2011



**Agenda Item:** Grand Canyon University Online Practitioner Preparation Programs: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education/Special Education (Cross Categorical, Dual Major), Master of Education in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Special Education, and Master of Education in Educational Administration (Principal).

**Iowa Goal:** All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

**Equity Impact Statement:** These rules support the improvement of instructional practices and strengthen the quality of educator preparation and professional development programs to give educators at all levels the skills they need to improve teaching and learning.

**Presenter:** Kris Crabtree-Groff, Consultant  
Practitioner Preparation  
Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the enrollment of Iowa residents in online practitioner preparation programs offered by Grand Canyon University.

**Background:** Iowa Code 281—79.5(256) grants authority to the State Board of Education to set standards and approve practitioner preparation programs based on those standards. Grand Canyon University has met the program approval requirements.

# **Recommendation for Approval of Grand Canyon University Online Practitioner Preparation Programs**

## **Introduction**

New federal Department of Education regulations (34 CFR § 600.9) require an institution that offers online courses and programs, including educator preparation programs, to be registered with each state in which students of the programs reside, if the state requires that the institution be registered in that state. Iowa Code Chapter 261B, as modified effective July 1, 2009, requires an institution that maintains or conducts a course of instruction in Iowa, including through distance education, to register with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission [“Commission”]. Thus, institutions offering distance education programs which have never been previously required to register in Iowa may now be required to do so.

Grand Canyon University has requested approval from the Iowa State Board of Education to offer the following practitioner preparation programs: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education/Special Education (Cross Categorical, Dual Major), Master of Education in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Special Education, and Master of Education in Educational Administration (Principal). The institution is housed in Phoenix, AZ and is currently registered with Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

## **Requirements**

Evidence has been provided and the following requirements have been met:

1. That the institution seeks to offer programs in Iowa via distance education only; the institution has no bricks-and-mortar presence in Iowa.<sup>1</sup>
2. That a candidate graduating from the institution obtains initial educator licensure/certification from the state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation.<sup>2</sup>
3. That the candidates graduating from the institution receive prominent written disclosure from the institution in all published and Web-based materials that describe the educator preparation program(s) as follows (slight paraphrasing is permitted):
  - A student seeking an Iowa educator license is advised that successful completion of this institution’s program(s) of educator preparation does not qualify you for initial educator licensure by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners.
  - A candidate seeking licensure in the State of Iowa must first be licensed/certified as an educator in the state in which preparation was completed. This institution shall assist a candidate in contacting the appropriate licensing board in the state in which the candidate’s preparation was completed. This institution shall assist the

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<sup>1</sup> An institution with a physical (“bricks-and-mortar”) presence in Iowa must have full chapter 79 review process.

<sup>2</sup> An institution whose candidates seek initial licensure from the Iowa BoEE must have full chapter 79 review process. The “state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation” means the state in which a majority of the candidate’s instruction originates.

candidate in understanding the requirements of the appropriate licensing board prior to the candidate's completion of this institution's program(s) of educator preparation.

- A candidate seeking subsequent licensure from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners must contact that board (515/281-5849; <http://www.boee.iowa.gov/>) for licensure requirements in Iowa.

4. That the institution's educator preparation programs are regionally accredited.
5. That the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in the state in which the institution maintains its primary physical presence. [If the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in other states in which the institution maintains a physical presence, the institution is encouraged to present proof of the same to the Iowa State Board of Education.]

### **Recommendation**

The Iowa Department of Education recommends Grand Canyon University approval to enroll Iowa residents into online practitioner preparation programs. Approval allows Grand Canyon University to offer these programs under its registration with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.