**Level I Program Form**

### I Summary of Proposed Changes

**Department/program:** Curriculum and Instruction, new option in the M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction: M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education (Initial)

**Summary:** This proposal constitutes a request for approval of a new Early Childhood Education (Initial) degree option in the existing M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction. The Masters of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction (Early Childhood Education (Initial)) degree option is designed to provide graduate level preparation for professionals who do not have an educational background in early childhood but are interested in or currently established in early childhood careers. The 36-credit on-line degree includes 15 core credits in Curriculum and Instruction and 21 early childhood credits, with a focus on the education of children from preschool through third grade.

### II Endorsements and Approvals

Please obtain approval from the Program Chair/Director, the Dean and the Associate Provost.

- **Requestor:** Matthew Schertz  
  **Phone:** 243-2163  
  **Signature**  
  **Date:** 7/26/14

- **Program Chair/Director:** Adrea Lawrence  
  **Signature**  
  **Date:** 9/24/14

- **Dean's Signature**  
  **Date:** 9/24/14

- **Initial Review in Provost's Office**  
  **Date:** 9/24/14

**Other affected programs:** NA

- **Signature**  
  **Date:**

- **Faculty Senate Review**  
  **Date:**

- **Signature**  
  **Date:**

**Provost**  
**Date:**

**Are other departments/programs affected by this modification because of:**

(a) required courses incl. prerequisites or corequisites,  
(b) perceived overlap in content areas  
(c) cross-listing of coursework

Please obtain signature(s) from the Chair/Director of any such department/program (above) before submission

### III Type of Level I Proposal

(please check the appropriate space)

- (a) Re-titling existing majors, minors, options, or certificates
- (b) Eliminating existing majors, minors, or options. (submit with BOR program termination checklist)
- (c) Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major*  
- (d) Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major*
- (e) Departmental mergers and name changes
- (f) Program revisions –for minor modifications use the program modification form*
- (g) Distance or online delivery of previously authorized degree or certificate program
- (h) Adding option within an existing major or degree *  
- (i) Eliminating organizational units such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools *
- (j) Consolidating existing programs and/or degree *
- (k) New certificate of 29 or fewer credits

*Requires BOR Curriculum Proposal Form submitted to the Provost's Office (refer to http://www.umt.edu/provost/faculty/curriculum/LevelI/default.php)

### IV Catalog Language

If you are proposing a change to an existing program or major, please cut and paste the requirements as they appear in the current catalog below.  
www.umt.edu/catalog

Please provide the **proposed copy** as you wish it to appear in the catalog. ↓
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Programs</th>
<th>Graduate Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The department offers the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in curriculum and instruction. Students select from one of the following options: curriculum studies, library media services, literacy education, and special education. Students may earn the master's degree in combination with requirements for initial teacher licensure at the elementary and secondary levels. This option is further explained below. The department also offers the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in curriculum and instruction. Information about these graduate programs is available from the department office, UM Graduate Programs and Admissions Catalog, and online: <a href="http://coehs.umt.edu/departments/currinst/masterofed/default.php">http://coehs.umt.edu/departments/currinst/masterofed/default.php</a>.</td>
<td>The department offers the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in curriculum and instruction. Students select from one of the following options: curriculum studies, early childhood education (Initial), early childhood education (Advanced), library media services, literacy education, and special education. Students may earn the master's degree in combination with requirements for initial teacher licensure at the elementary and secondary levels. This option is further explained below. The department also offers the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in curriculum and instruction. Information about these graduate programs is available from the department office, UM Graduate Programs and Admissions Catalog, and online: <a href="http://coehs.umt.edu/departments/currinst/masterofed/default.php">http://coehs.umt.edu/departments/currinst/masterofed/default.php</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please **explain/justify** the new proposal or change. ↓

The Masters of Education (M.Ed.) in Early Childhood Education (Initial) degree option addresses an early childhood workforce demand in our state and nation. Today, less than half of the nation's children participate in state supported preschool programs. Nationally, President Obama's early learning agenda proposes to expand access to high quality preschool for all children and Montana's Governor Bullock has established public Pre-K as a top priority for the pending legislative session. To this end, Montana's Chapter 58 educator preparation standards are currently undergoing significant revisions to develop a new Preschool – Grade 3 teaching license. Recognizing that Montana currently does not have an active Master's degree available in Early Childhood Education, this proposal maximizes existing resources at UM to offer the degree option with no additional resource requirements.

What other programs are affected by your proposal? Obtain signatures as requested below.

**V Department Summary** Required if several proposals are submitted. In a separate document list program title and proposed change for all proposals.

**VI Copies and Electronic Submission** After all signatures have been obtained submit the signed original, and electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221.

Revised 7/13