Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. See information about Level I Proposals.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Certificate in Early Childhood Education (P-3)

II. SUMMARY

The graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education will be administered in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. This 21-credit graduate-level certificate program is specifically developed for professionals who have earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education and are seeking specialized skills and knowledge required to add an endorsement in Early Childhood Education in Preschool – Grade 3 (P-3). More specifically, this option targets education professionals who already hold a Master’s degree as well as graduates who desire the P-3 endorsement without completion of a full M.Ed. program.

The curriculum is comprised of existing courses that are designed to meet national and state early childhood education standards. Each course embeds a required lab experience so professionals are engaged in the application of knowledge and skills in their current classroom setting and/or other early childhood settings in their local community. The Certificate program will be delivered in an online format to create a readily accessible option for current teachers seeking certification in Montana’s new P-3 teaching endorsement. At the time of this proposal, there are no other programs offering a graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education (P-3) in the state.

IV. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Julie Bullard

Signature

Date 9/24/15

Phone/Email: 243-2563 Julie.Bullard@mso.umt.edu

Program Chair: Georgia Cobbs

Signature

Date 9/24/15

*Other Affected Programs:

Professional Education Council (PEC)

Kristi Murphy

Signature

Date 9/24/15

Dean: Susan Harper-Whalen

Signature

Date 9/24/15

Provost’s Office:

Signature

Date 10/6/10

* Are affected because of: (a) required courses including prerequisites or corequisites, (b) perceived overlap in content areas, or (c) cross-listing of coursework.

After the Faculty Senate approves the proposal on a consent agenda the Provost’s Office forwards the item for Board of Regents approval at the next possible meeting.
V. TYPE OF LEVEL I PROPOSAL

☐ Retitling existing majors, minors, options, or certificates
☐ Eliminating existing majors, minors, or options. (submit with BOR program termination checklist)
☐ Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major or an option in a major*
☒ Campus Certificates: Adding, retitling, terminating or revising a certificate of 29 or fewer credits
☐ Revising a program* (for minor modifications use the program modification form)
☐ Distance or online delivery of previously authorized degree or certificate program
☐ Adding option within an existing major or degree *
☐ Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees *
☐ Placing a program into moratorium
☐ Withdrawing a program from moratorium
☐ Adding BAS/AA/AS Area of Study

*Must submit with BOR Curriculum Proposal Form

IV. CATALOG LANGUAGE

Attach the current or proposed catalog language with any changes clearly identified.

Certificate in Early Childhood Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 508 - EC Principles &amp; Practices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 510 - Families, Community, Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 520 - Meet Standards Play Env</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 530 - SocEmot Dvlpmt in Yng Child</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 540 - Neuroscience Impact Chld Dev</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 550 - EC Curric Anlys, Dsgn, &amp; Assess</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EDEC 595 - EC Fieldwork/Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Required Grade B-</td>
<td>21 Total Credits Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admissions requirements for the graduate-level Early Childhood Education certificate include admission to UM as a graduate non-degree student, a letter of interest, a current resume, official transcripts showing bachelor's and master's degrees (if applicable), two letters of recommendation, and a current fingerprint-based national background check with related forms. Applicants with an undergraduate GPA below a 3.00 must submit one of the following: Official GRE scores (Revised test: Verbal of 146 or higher, Quantitative of 143 or higher, and Writing of 4.0 or higher), Official MAT score (383 or higher), MA/MEd/MS GPA of 3.0 or higher, or National Board Certification.

III. JUSTIFICATION

The graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education addresses an early childhood work-force demand in our state and nation. Effective July 1, 2015, Montana's Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards, ARM 10.58.532, were revised to implement a new Preschool – Grade 3 (P-3) teaching license in the state. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction currently offers a Master's degree in Early
Childhood Education for licensed K-8 teachers seeking the new P-3 endorsement. However, many interested candidates already hold a Master's degree and other early-career K-8 professionals are hesitant to complete a M.Ed. program due to a perception that they will be less marketable at the higher salary level that is required for teachers with a Master's degree.

The graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education offers these candidates a consolidated, coherent program of study in the field of early childhood education with outcomes that make them eligible for Montana's P-3 teaching endorsement. Additionally, the Certificate provides UM students with recognition for the completion of a planned program of study on their transcripts that can also appear on their teaching license from the state of Montana.

VI SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level I proposal to the Provost's Office for initial review. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@mso.umt.edu

Level 1 proposals also require Board of Regents approval. The appropriate BOR forms must be submitted with this form.