

SMSU Non-Conventional 2+2 Early Childhood Education Program



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Where you belong!

History of the 2+2 ECE Program

Inception: program was created in 2005 thanks to a generous grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation

Articulation Agreements with 11 Community and Technical Colleges:

Alexandria TCC; Dakota CTC; Hennepin TC; Mesabi Range CTC; Minnesota West CTC; Minnesota State CTC; Pine TC; Ridgewater College; St. Cloud TCC; Minnesota State College-Southeast Tech; and South Central College.

*underlined added since our last BOT review in Dec. 2010



Achievements of SMSU ECE Program (on-campus and 2+2)

- *Nearly 100 candidates have graduated from the 2 + 2 ECE program
- *SMSU Pass rate on MTLE Early Childhood subtest 1 is 93%, subtest 2 is 100% in 2014-2015
- *SMSU Pass rate on MTLE Early Childhood Pedagogy subtest 1 is 100%, subtest 2 is 100% in 2014-2015



Research on SMSU's ECE Program

As part of her doctoral research, Mary Risacher, SMSU's Director of 2+2 ECE, compared the achievement of the on-campus ECE candidates vs. the 2+2 ECE candidates. Dr. Risacher's results found 'no significant difference' in the achievement of these two groups based on a candidate survey of competency, GPA, and mentor teacher and university supervisor evaluations during pre-student teaching and student teaching. Access document via ProQuest DOI 10027081

*Doctoral advisor was Dr. Gera Jacobs, recent past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children



Program Review in 2010

SMSU's last institutional review by the Board of Teaching was on Dec. 5-8, 2010. As part of that review, the unit submitted a 124 pg. Institutional Report on Teacher Education. The 2 + 2 ECE program is mentioned on pgs. 13-14, 77, 81, 94, 98, 112, and 118.

SMSU's Teacher Education programs did very well, with only 2 of 53 standards receiving a 'met with weakness'. All other standards were fully met.



Program review in 2010

SMSU received the Team Findings Report and Recommendations from the BOT Team; the 2 + 2 ECE program is listed on pg. 6 of that report. At that time, all SMSU licensure programs were given continuing approval through June 30, 2018.



Fast forward to January 2016

All SMSU licensure programs were entered into EPPAS in spring 2015 as part of the new PERCA requirements, and all were approved.

In January 2016, questions arose on how to deal with articulations vs. petitions during recent changes in requirements for licensure applications; SMSU was asked to submit a 'non-conventional program' – completed in EPPAS on 3/8/16, but told it won't be reviewed until spring 2017; then asked to request a discretionary variance for the 2 + 2 ECE program from BOT in the meantime.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 2.25

Because the unit needs to have their program completers' data for the EdTPA for PERCA continuing approval, it will be necessary for CC transfer students to take over 50% of their licensure program at the University.

2+2 ECE Distance Learning students are required to take a minimum of 47/74 (63.5%) credits in the ECE major with SMSU, depending on the articulation agreement each school has with SMSU. This includes 12 credits of student teaching.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 4 -

Prior to each articulation agreement being approved by the SMSU Teacher Education faculty, syllabi were carefully reviewed and many conversations were had with instructors of the courses to insure that all standards were addressed and met. Course outlines including the teaching standards are shared with 2-Year Partners (2YP) as well as syllabi. 2YP also tend to adopt similar textbooks as SMSU ensuring that similar theory and practice are incorporated in a unified manner across institutions. Our advisory groups were kept informed, but by IFO contract are not part of the curriculum development process. One or two 'methods' courses are included in the articulations; these courses are taught by CC faculty members who have the background knowledge and training required by the PERCA requirements for the BOT.



Response to questions raised by rule

- Rule 5 - Candidates in the 2 + 2 ECE program receive their field experience placements, beginning with ED 101 Introduction to Education through the methods classes labs and prestudent teaching and commencing with student teaching, from SMSU's Placement and Licensure office. Mentor teachers complete an evaluation of the candidate and return it to the Placement Office. University supervisors are used for prestudent teaching (10 day experience) and for student teaching. A two day clinical experience is required as part of the ED 423 Classroom Management course, and the 2 + 2 candidates are required to come to SMSU to participate in this experience, which is supervised by SMSU Teacher Education Department faculty members. This placement in Marshall ensures that candidates have an experience in our diverse community.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 5 cont.:

- A recent study by the MN Center for Rural Policy shows that greater Minnesota now has a level of diversity quite similar to the metro area, so nearly all placements include settings with diverse populations. Please see their information posted here: <http://www.ruralmn.org/atlas-online/> This data shows the levels of diversity, whether measured by socioeconomic status, education levels, languages spoken, ethnic diversity, etc. found in each of the areas where SMSU teacher education candidates are placed. All placements are recorded by our Placement Office for each candidate.
- Practicum hours completed in the community college programs for articulated courses are documented at that school. SMSU now requests documentation of these hours at the time that candidates in the 2 + 2 program are admitted to SMSU. The 2-year schools require that practicum hours be completed in a licensed setting as well.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 6 - Students are advised by faculty members who only advise 2+2 students, allowing those faculty to focus on just advising for that major. Faculty Advisors track changes to the major and inform students of requirements to complete the program and gain licensure. Planning guides are posted on the website along with the 2+2 Handbook, semester schedule, and newsletter. Students also receive information via our Education ListServ, which is a system set up for Education students to receive communication regarding requirements and advising. Any changes are communicated to the campus liaisons at our 2-year partner schools to keep them updated for advising purposes on their campuses as well.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 7 - Transcripts are reviewed as students enter the program and then again during the Degree Check Process. All necessary transcripts are submitted to BOT at the time of licensure.

Key assessments are addressed in courses taught only by SMSU faculty, then submitted to LiveText as part of an ongoing electronic platform. Key assessments are broken down into standards and submitted by course and standard area. Data can be retrieved for review by candidate, by course, and by standard.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 8 - CVs/resumes are gathered for all faculty teaching articulated courses at each institution. These are reviewed by SMSU's Education faculty to assure that requirements are met. The 2-year schools have been notified that if a new faculty member is assigned to teach an articulated course, this same process must be met. Information on the 2-year faculty engagement as described in rule will be gathered yearly as well.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 9 - Student teaching placements are arranged by the SMSU Placement and Licensure Office within a setting under a licensed Minnesota teacher. Supervision is conducted by those meeting SMSU requirements (higher than BOT) including a minimum of 3 years teaching experience and having completed a minimum of a masters degree.

All SMSU completers are included in Title II reporting.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 10- unit leader is responsible to keep CC partners/instructors informed

Collaboration is done regularly through email and phone correspondence, along with campus liaison meetings with our 2-year partners.



Response to questions raised by rule

Rule 11 - the unit is directly involved in the areas of faculty selection and assignments,

11.5... tenure, promotion, and retention decisions;

Not sure how unit leader does this in such a **collaborative program**

SMSU's 2-year partners are aware of requirements for courses taught within the articulation agreements, and CVs/resumes will be collected by SMSU for all faculty in 2-year schools teaching those courses.

SMSU is not responsible for tenure, promotion, or retention decisions at 2-year schools.



SMSU is Leading the Way!

To our knowledge, SMSU is the first to be asked to have an articulated licensure program brought through the non-conventional licensure process. A brief search http://www.mntransfer.org/educators/transfer/e_artagreements.php found many articulations for licensure programs between 2-year programs and various teacher education programs within Minnesota, both public and private institutions, for licensure programs varying from ECE to Elementary Ed, Special Education, Health Education, etc. Our assumption is that the Board will review each of these programs as well.

Other questions to consider: what level of scrutiny is needed for course petitions approved through the transfer process vs. courses approved through the articulation process?



Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to showcase
our program to you!

We are happy to answer any remaining
questions you may have for us.

