

ILLINOIS STATE
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Graduate School

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TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee

RE: Executive Summary – Proposal from the Department of Special Education for a New Graduate Specialization Certificate: Early Intervention Vision Specialist.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached proposal to add a new Graduate Specialization Certificate: Early Intervention Vision Specialist.

The Department of Special Education provided the following rationale for adding this new certificate:

- Through this new graduate specialization certificate program in early intervention, current teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) and orientation and mobility specialists (O&M) for the visually impaired will earn State of Illinois Early Intervention Credential and develop skills to provide early developmental therapy to infants and toddlers with visual impairments (DT-V) and (DTO&M) in a family-focused model with infants, toddlers, and their families across the state.
- Current teachers of students with visual impairments and O&M specialists will have additional training with infants and toddlers with blindness, visual impairments, or deafblindness.
- By providing additional training and field-based experiences focused on infants and toddlers, partnerships with families and culturally responsive intervention, educators will be prepared to deliver the highest quality intervention to children and families in the least served areas of Illinois.
- The federal Department of Education has awarded Illinois State University a personnel development grant to prepare forty new professionals to provide services to children birth to three years of age in an effort to reduce the critical shortage of DT-V and DTO&M personnel in Illinois.
- All instructors and supervisors will be hired and paid for through the federal grant award. All expenses for all five years for course instruction, supervision, and travel are provided through the federal Department of Education OSEP Division.
- Students accepted into the program will only take five graduate courses in the certificate program and no other courses within the Department of Special Education or any other department on campus.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new certificate.

Attachments