

ECE/Elementary Ed science requirement change proposal

Approved by IUB Committee on Teacher Education, 24 March 2015

Proposal: The goal is to make a change to the list of accepted courses from Geological Sciences to fulfill program requirements for all Early Childhood and Elementary Education majors. We propose to change the list from being one of three classes (G103, G104 or G105) to only one course (G105 – Our Habitable Planet).

Rationale: At this point, Geological Sciences is the only subject area where students have multiple courses to choose from. However, not all of the courses offered cover the wide range of topics that early childhood and elementary education majors will need to teach about Earth Sciences in grades K-6. We completed a thorough review a year ago aligning course content (lecture, lab, and text) to the K-8 Earth Science National and Indiana State Science Standards and found that the G105 course covered most of the topics and did so using an integrated and systematic approach to thinking about the content.

In addition, over the last few years, Science Education has made a strong effort to work with instructors from each of the introductory courses that PSTs take in each discipline. Having three courses to do this with in Geological Sciences created a barrier. We have worked quite extensively with G105 faculty in the last few years. Additionally, Adam Maltese is slated to regularly teach G105, which should help this integration.

It is for these two reasons that we seek to make the change from choosing one of three geological science courses to allowing only G105 as the Earth/Geological Sciences course for an early childhood and elementary B.S. in education degree. This change would be put into effect for those who matriculate into one of these two programs beginning fall 2015.