



BOARD OF REGENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

BACCALAUREATE AND MASTER'S DEGREES

NEW PROPOSAL FORMS
(Submit One Copy)

LETTER OF INTENT

RECEIVED

NOV 02 2009

M. MIDDLETON

Institution: Gainesville State College

Institutional Contact: Dr. Marya Leatherwood, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: October 30, 2009

School/Division: Social Sciences

Department: Political Science

Name of Proposed Program: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Major: Political Science with a concentration in Secondary Education

Degree Inscription: B .A. Political Science

CIP Code: 45.1001; 13.1317

Anticipated Starting Date: 2011

Program Classification: Political Science and Government, General; Social Science Teacher Education

1. Description and Objectives of Degree:

Gainesville State College (GSC) proposes to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in Secondary Education to effectively prepare educators to teach high school courses in civics, American government, global issues, world politics, comparative politics, international relations, law, and human rights. Qualified teachers in this field are necessary to facilitate student engagement in these courses. As society becomes increasingly global, it is paramount to develop an understanding of the U.S. position in global society and gain the ability to think through issues facing our nation and world. This degree will offer both an opportunity for students at GSC to meet an identifiable need in Northeast Georgia for secondary educators and help to reduce the need for secondary schools to recruit qualified teachers from other states.

In addition to the College's existing bachelor programs in early childhood and elementary education, GSC's Political Science Department has nine full-time doctoral level faculty members whose expertise parallels the curricula specified above. In light of the need for secondary education teachers, it is logical to build on these strengths and develop a baccalaureate degree in political science. Students not choosing the education concentration will be well prepared for entry level positions in government or business or to pursue graduate degrees in such areas as law and political science.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in political science will require a total of 120 total credit hours¹ and will be offered on the Gainesville campus, relying on standard delivery methods that incorporate technology and face-to-face instruction. Where appropriate, and largely to accommodate the needs of student schedules, consideration will be given for development of hybrid courses that combine on-line delivery with face-to-face time. Students who graduate with a major in political science will be able to demonstrate:

- Understanding of the political process in the United States and selected other countries.
- Understanding of the rapidly changing global environment and international relations.
- Knowledge of the relationship between federal, state, and local levels of government.
- Understanding of the judicial system and law.
- Understanding of competing political theories and philosophies.
- Effective writing, analytical thinking, and oral communication skills.

Students who graduate with a major in political science with a concentration in secondary education will, in addition to the objectives stated above, be able to:

- Assist learners in developing an understanding of civic life, politics, and government so that the learners can explain the origins of governmental authority, recognize the need for government, and identify the crucial functions of government, including laws and rules.
- Enable learners to evaluate rules and laws, differentiate between limited and unlimited government, and justify the need for limitations on governmental power.
- Guide learners as they explore American democracy, including the American idea of constitutional government, the impact of the distinctive characteristics of American society on our government, the

¹ Exclusive of the current Gainesville State College 3-credit hour Physical Education and Wellness requirements,

nature of the American political culture, and the values and principles that are basic to American life and government.

- Help learners understand how the government of the United States operates under the Constitution and the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy, including the ideas of distributed, shared, and limited powers of government; how the national, state, and local governments are organized; and the place of law in the system.
- Enable learners to understand the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs.
- Assist learners in developing an understanding of citizenship, its rights and responsibilities, and in developing their abilities and dispositions to participate effectively in civic life.
- Insure that learners are made aware of the full range of opportunities to participate as citizens in the American democracy and of their responsibilities for doing so.

2. Program Fit to Institutional Mission and to Nationally Accepted Trends in the Discipline:

GSC hopes to fill the need and fulfill the College's mission of meeting "the educational, civic, and economic needs of the community and region," and offering "career programs and courses relevant to area employment needs and the interests of students."² GSC is an integral part of the northeast Georgia region and takes pride in strong community connections. One way the College serves the community is to educate students for jobs that are in demand in the region. Using GSC as a vehicle to meet demand for secondary education teachers is a continuance of the college–community partnership as reflected in the GSC mission statement.

GSC serves an area with significant population growth, particularly among traditionally underrepresented groups such as the Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations. The growth in the Hispanic population in our service area, for example, is reflected in the increased enrollment of the Hispanic students at GSC, which now stands at 635 self-reported (approximately 7.6% of total enrollment). With such numbers, GSC is uniquely positioned to significantly impact the production of Hispanic political science teachers who can meet the growing need in our service area and beyond. The proposed political science education concentration will embed English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) standards so that candidates will not only be certified secondary political science teachers, but also earn the ESOL endorsement without requiring additional coursework.

3. Program Justification to Discipline/Geographic Region/ State/ Nation and Not Necessarily Program Duplication:

Georgia faces a shortage of qualified secondary level teachers nearing crisis proportions. The Hanover Research Council, which cites both the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), indicates the growth in the number of high school graduates in Georgia will "be among the highest in the United States."³ WICHE projects a growth of 38.6% increase in the state's public high school graduates by 2013-14. NCES projects a growth rate of 24.4% for Georgia's high school graduates in the same time frame. WICHE projects the number of graduates from Georgia's private high schools will grow by 102.1% for

² Gainesville State College. Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals August 12, 2008.

<http://www.gsc.edu/about/internal/opir/strategicplanning/Documents/MissionVisionGoals.pdf>

³ Hanover Research Council. *Environmental Scan of Northeast Georgia*. Prepared for Gainesville State College, January 2009. Web. 28 Sept. 2009. <https://portal.gsc.edu/depts/IE/Documents/Strategic Plan/Environmental Scan of Northeast Georgia.pdf> (password protected)

the same years.⁴ The need for secondary level teachers in all areas of social science, including political science, in Georgia is made clear in a recent U.S. Department of Education report that identified specific areas of teacher shortages in Georgia from 2008-2010.⁵

In the summer of 2009, the University System of Georgia (USG) published a report entitled "Teacher Preparation Report" (TPR). This report confirms that Georgia needs to educate and graduate more qualified secondary level teachers. The TPR shows a majority of USG trained teachers are hired in close proximity to the college or university that trains them. Developing teacher programs in areas lacking teachers is a logical response to the findings of the TPR. Training local students has the advantage of creating a diverse pool of qualified teachers who can reflect and understand the region in which they are likely to work. This point is relevant to the northeast Georgia region as it becomes more diverse demographically and socio-economically. GSC draws most of its students from the northeast Georgia region. Using GSC to train more secondary teachers provides the benefit of increasing the number of teachers from and who likely will remain in the region to teach. GSC would be providing career opportunities to students from the surrounding community, but also giving back to the community a valuable resource – teachers who are familiar with and understand the region.

According to the Georgia Workforce Trends: An Analysis of Long-term Employment Projections to 2014, secondary school teaching is a "hot" job. The "hot" category is defined as an occupation that is "fast-growing and high-paying with plentiful expected annual job openings."⁶ The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook states an unusually large percentage of teachers will retire from 2006-2016 creating a demand for more teachers than are being currently supplied.

In addition to the national trend, the northeast region of Georgia has seen rapid population increases along with an increase in the number of children attending school. Several of the fastest growing counties in the country and three of the top teacher hiring counties in Georgia, Hall, Gwinnett, and Forsyth counties are located in GSC's region of service.⁷ Recent data for our service area indicates a teacher attrition rate for 2008-09 of over 6% while student enrollment continues to increase at over 1%. Further, the number of pending teacher retirements ranges between 16 and 33% in the region's school districts. Thus over 1,100 teachers are to retire this year and the number will double or triple by the year 2012. In secondary social sciences 1.5% of the teachers are working with non-renewable certificates.⁸

In Northeast Georgia, only two public institutions graduate students with degrees enabling them to become certified secondary teachers of political science. The University of Georgia graduates students with education degrees including a specialization in social sciences, while North Georgia College and State University (NGSCU), overall enrollment of only 5000, serves a relatively small number in this field. Therefore, GSC would be the only college in the region, other than NGSCU, to offer political science degrees with teacher certification.

⁴ *Environmental Scan of Northeast Georgia*

⁵ U.S. Dept. of Ed. Office of Postsecondary Education, "Teacher Shortage Areas Nationwide Listing 1990-1 through 2009-10," March 2009, pp: 20-21. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf>

⁶ Georgia Department of Labor. *Workforce Trends: An Analysis of Long-Term Employment Projections to 2014*. Georgia Department of Labor. Web. 28 Sept. 2009. <http://explorer.dol.state.ga.us/mis/Current/gaworkforcecurrent.pdf>

⁷ *Environmental Scan of Northeast Georgia*

⁸ Professional Standards Commission "Best Practices in Teacher and Leader Recruitment and Retention: Recruiting for Retention Collaborative Conference", Sept. 28-30, 2009.

A recent survey of 2045 GSC students showed that 29% (593) expressed interest in majoring in political science and 24% (490) in secondary education certification in political science if available at GSC. Presently, at the associate's degree level, 110 students have a declared major in political science and an additional 25 students in social science secondary education.

4. Institutional Resources that will be Expended Specifically for this Program:

Currently, there exists both the appropriate level of faculty expertise and qualifications to begin offering coursework for the degree. There are nine full time political scientists on staff. As enrollment increases, tuition revenues generated by the program will fund additional faculty and staff requirements. Nine education faculty members have the credentials to teach and supervise teacher candidates in the education concentration. Furthermore, the Director of Field and Clinical Experiences will be responsible for appropriate placement in public schools.

Although the program can be offered with the present available facilities with creative scheduling of classes, an additional 133,000 square feet of instructional space will become available to accommodate student growth and new program development. The new classroom/office building will provide approximately 26 classrooms, 96 faculty/staff/administrative offices, and 13 computer/media/language laboratories. The new building will also contain a number of student study rooms, conference rooms, student gathering spaces, lounges, and a multipurpose room that can accommodate 260 auditorium style seats. This new classroom/office building should be available in fall 2011. Short-term expenses such as incidental departmental costs and continuing library acquisitions can be funded through normal operating costs as enrollment, accompanied by tuition-generated revenue, increases. The Library annually assesses the collection and updates according to curricular changes. Future enrichment of library holdings will be needed as the program grows.



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October 30, 2009

Dr. Marci Middleton
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
270 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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M. MIDDLETON

Dear Dr. Middleton:

It is my pleasure to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) from Gainesville State College for your review and consideration.

The attached Letters of Intent (LOIs) are seeking approval to develop proposals for seven baccalaureate degrees in liberal arts disciplines, each with an education concentration for teacher certification, and a baccalaureate degree in Middle Grades Education with an ESOL endorsement.

These eight new baccalaureate degrees are well aligned with Gainesville State College's mission ... *to provide broad access to a quality liberal arts higher education primarily for the population of Northeast Georgia.* These LOIs have been approved by our College's Academic Affairs Committee and each LOI received an affirming vote of approval of 94% or greater from our faculty, as a whole, on October 16, 2009.

These new baccalaureate degrees are also well aligned with the University System of Georgia's strategic goals. As you are aware, a significant number of our student body are first generation college students, many of whom face considerable economic challenges while earning their college degrees. As you will see from the data presented in each of the LOIs, our currently enrolled students have expressed a strong desire to attain a four year degree in these disciplines and have indicated that they would prefer to continue their education at Gainesville State College if the opportunity were to be available to them. While many of our students continue to pursue their four year degrees at other USG institutions, having these degrees offered at the Gainesville campus would increase educational access and affordability for this population of learners as well as assist in meeting USG's goal of increasing access to higher education by expanding the system's educational capacity to serve an additional 100,000 students by the year 2020.

The projected teacher shortage in the state of Georgia and the northeast region has been well documented by both national and regional data that cites an intersection between teacher retirements

and the increase in student enrollments as our regional population expands. Thus, USG's commitment to meeting 80% of the state's need for teachers by the year 2020 would also be well served by these new baccalaureate programs. Each of the eight baccalaureate degrees being proposed includes an education concentration that would lead to certification to teach at various levels in the primary, middle, and secondary levels. As noted in Dr. Maryellen Cosgrove's letter of support, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GA PSC) are scheduled to conduct an onsite accreditation review during the latter part of the 2010-2011 academic year. Consequently, the timing of these LOIs is fortuitous. By developing and delivering more baccalaureate programs that prepare teachers for primary, middle, and secondary levels, GSC will strengthen our College's partnerships with our region's school districts.

Finally, these baccalaureate programs will serve as an economic engine for both our state and for our regional area, by preparing graduates with a strong liberal arts background to meet USG's intent that our students are learning what they need to lead full lives and to become productive citizens. Strengthening our colleges and universities serves to build stronger communities through the economic impact created by the purchasing of goods and services within the community and the effects on the labor market in both the short- and long-term (Parsons & Griffiths, 2003; Stokes & Coomes, 1998). Thus, expanding the number of four year degrees that Gainesville State College offers will serve to retain our students in the immediate region and strengthen the economic base of our region.

Thank you for your continued support of Gainesville State College. Please advise if I can answer any questions regarding these Letters of Intent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marya L. Leatherwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marya L. Leatherwood, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs



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October 30, 2009

Dr. Marci Middleton
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
270 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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M.MIDDLETON

Dear Dr. Middleton:

Enclosed are eight baccalaureate degree Letters of Intent from Gainesville State College (GSC) all of which have education concentrations that will lead to certification to teach pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (BA in art); grades four through eight (BS in middle grades education), and secondary education (BS in biology, economics, mathematics, and BA in English, history, political science). Graduates will become certified at the initial level; however, they may also pursue advanced degrees in education after graduation. The timing of these Letters of Intent is appropriate because the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GA PSC) have scheduled an onsite accreditation review during spring 2011. When these programs achieve a successful developmental review, GSC will be able to admit candidates into these teacher education preparation programs beginning fall 2011.

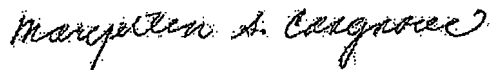
Data analyses from the Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Professional Standards Commission, Hanover Research Council, National Center for Education Statistics, University System of Georgia, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education indicate that the growth rates in the number of high school graduates in Georgia will be among the highest in the United States. At the recent Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) "Best Practice and Leader Recruitment and Retention: Recruiting for Retention Collaborative Conference" (Sept. 28-29, 2009) data were released for the Gainesville State College service area that indicate a 6.4% teacher attrition rate and 4.7% educators teaching with non-renewable certificates during FY 09. During this current academic year, 20.23% or 1,538 of the region's teachers are eligible to retire and this will continue to increase after the economy rebounds. The service area for GSC includes the Pioneer Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) school districts (Banks, Dawson, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns and Union counties); however, many GSC students also reside in bordering counties such as Barrow, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Jackson and Oconee. Thus, the convergence of an increasing school aged population with a decreasing teacher work force will have a negative impact on the stability and growth of this region.

The USG 20,000 x 2020 initiative also supports this need to produce more quality educators to teach in Georgia's pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

With the exception of the BS degree in biology education, these proposed baccalaureate degrees will be limited to 120-hours exclusive of the GSC 3-credit hour health and wellness requirement. The degrees will also be offered on the Gainesville campus and will align with the Georgia Performance Standards and the Georgia Assessments for Certification of Educators examinations ensuring that the teacher candidates will have the necessary knowledge to teach Georgia's students. Furthermore, the pedagogical courses will address the NCATE and GA PSC standards which will reinforce the quality of the GSC teacher candidates' skills and dispositions to become effective teachers who believe that all students must and can learn at higher levels. A unique component of the GSC baccalaureate degrees will be the fact that the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) standards will be embedded in the required education courses; thus, enabling all the teacher candidates to earn the GA PSC ESOL endorsement in order to better meet the needs of all students regardless of their primary languages and cultures. GSC currently has nine full-time education instructors plus a Director of Field and Clinical Experience; thus, the required education courses and school-based requirements will be taught by qualified faculty.

I appreciate your time and commitment to review these eight Letters of Intent to offer additional baccalaureate degrees at Gainesville State College.

Sincerely,



Maryellen S. Cosgrove, Ph.D.
Professor
Chair – Education, Health and Wellness