



THE UNIVERSITY
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AT ARLINGTON

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July 3, 2013

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

I am writing to notify the Commission that The University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington) plans to offer the Bachelors of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: ESL Generalist EC-6 degree via the internet, in partnership with Academic Partners (AP), a company located at 2200 Ross Ave., #3800, Dallas, Texas, 75201. The intended launch date for the first cohort of students is August 2013. We have already obtained Commission approval to offer several other degrees online with Academic Partners.

As in our other partnerships with AP, the company will assist in the marketing, promotion, and delivery of the courses. AP will also provide academic support via academic coaches hired to help facilitate student navigation of the course.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the UT Arlington NCATE-accredited College of Education and Health Professions (COEHP) has offered the BAIS Interdisciplinary Generalist EC-6 degree on campus for many years. The department also has extensive experience offering masters' degrees online in Mathematics Education, Science Education, and Literacy Studies, as well as Reading Specialist certification via the internet. This will be the first time that the BAIS ESL Generalist EC-6 will be available via an online format.

The BAIS Interdisciplinary Generalist EC-6 degree program will be offered in a cohort format. Students will take two classes per semester, thus enabling them to remain employed full time. Students may enter the program as freshmen and complete the entire 121 credit-hour degree and certification in this program. Students may also enter the program having completed the UT Arlington core curriculum, content courses, and other degree requirements to take the final 48 credit-hours (two years) of the program. The final year of the program will include 30 hours of early field experience in Texas school classrooms, in addition to a full semester of supervised student teaching.

The curriculum for this program is identical to the curriculum for the face-to-face BAIS ESL Generalist EC-6 degree offered on the UT Arlington campus. Admission standards are also identical to those used to select students for the on-campus program.

Please let me know if the Commission requires additional information.

Sincerely,

Pam Haws, PhD
Accreditation Liaison

c: Steven Sheeley
Vistasp Karbhari
Ronald L. Elsenbaumer
Jeanne Gerlach
Pete Smith