IPFW
Request for a New Concentration

I. Name of proposed concentration: Exceptional Needs

II. Title of degree to be conferred: B.S. in Education

III. Field of study, department, and college involved: Elementary Education, Dept. of Educational Studies, College of Education and Public Policy

IV. Objectives of the proposed concentration: Recently when we made changes to the General Education requirements, we revised our program and some of the existing concentrations for elementary education majors. At the same time, we wanted to entice students to consider earning a dual license (minor) in Special Education by creating a concentration in special education – Exceptional Needs. This concentration would lead directly to the dual license (minor) in Special Education and would occur within the 120 credit program limitation. These changes parallel how the concentration is being implemented at other IU campuses.

V. Proposed Date of Initiation: March 2014

VI. Describe the relationship of the proposed concentration to the mission of the campus or the department: The campus mission is to offer high-quality undergraduate programs that meet regional needs. Building a concentration that leads to the dual license option (minor) increases the CEPP’s ability to meet the regional need of more teachers with specialized knowledge and skills in teaching children with special learning issues.

VII. Describe any relationship to existing programs within the campus: The concentration in Exceptional Needs would be comprised of 12 credits. All of those credits would count towards the dual license (minor) in Mild Intervention.

VIII. Describe any cooperative endeavors explored and/or intended with other institutions or organizations: None known at this time.

IX. Describe the need for the concentration: This concentration is needed for two reasons. First, as a way to entice students to begin working on their dual license (minor) in Mild Intervention. Having more teachers with dual licenses in elementary education and special education would help the field as we are currently experiencing a shortage of special educators. Second, this concentration allows IPFW to offer a concentration in a way that parallels what other IU campuses are currently doing.

X. Describe the resources required over and above current levels to implement the proposed concentration: As these courses are all part of the current dual license (minor), there is no need for additional resources to deliver this concentration.
XI. Proposed curriculum

In order to complete the concentration in Exceptional Needs, students would be required to complete:

EDUC K305 Tch Excpl Learn El School  3
EDUC K307 Mthds Tch Stu Spec Needs  3
EDUC K370 Intro Learn Disab           3
EDUC K441 Transition Across Lifespan  3
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