

**Council on Postsecondary Education
July 24, 2009**

**Bachelor of Science in
Science and Mathematics Education
Western Kentucky University**

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the Bachelor of Science in Science and Mathematics Education (CIP 13.1206) proposed by Western Kentucky University.

The Council staff recommends approval of this program based on the following:

- There is a documented lack of certified science and mathematics teachers both in Kentucky and throughout the United States.
- Nationally two-thirds of the students enrolled in physical science courses have teachers who did not major in the subject in college or are not certified to teach it.
- Competent and engaged teachers are needed to inspire students to pursue careers in mathematics and science, improve student achievement, and produce a better-prepared workforce.

Western Kentucky University proposes a Bachelor of Science in Science and Mathematics Education to provide students with enhanced content knowledge and improved pedagogical content knowledge, which will prepare students for employment as mathematics and science teachers. The goal of the program is to develop in prospective teachers a deep understanding of how to teach mathematics and science content effectively.

Students completing the program will have two majors concurrently and without diluting either major. One major will be a content major in either mathematics or science. The second major will be in education. The program is designed so that a student completes middle grades or secondary teacher certification while also completing a major in mathematics or one of the science majors approved for teacher certification. The science and mathematics education program requirements are coordinated with state and national standards for teacher preparation in all the mathematics and science disciplines, including both process skills and content items. All the teacher competencies required by the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board and assessed through the portfolio and final observation are encompassed within the science and mathematics education course sequence.

This proposal was posted to the online Kentucky Postsecondary Program Proposal System for review by the Council staff and other postsecondary institutions. The WKU Board of Regents approved the program at its April 24, 2009, meeting.