

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 24, 2009

Bachelor of Science in Middle School Science Education
Western Kentucky University

<p>ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the Bachelor of Science in Middle School Science Education (CIP 40.0101) proposed by Western Kentucky University.</p>

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

- This program will help ease the shortage of mathematics and science teachers currently being experienced across Kentucky. 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.
- This program satisfies the conditions of the funding agreement with the National Math and Science Initiative for Western Kentucky University to be one of the 10 national awardees for replication of the University of Texas at Austin's nationally recognized UTeach program for teacher preparation in science and mathematics.

The Middle School Science Education curriculum replicates the University of Texas at Austin's nationally recognized UTeach program which focuses on mathematics and science teaching and the strong content background that each student receives through a mathematics or science degree. Since starting the program in 1997, the UTeach program has increased the number of students seeking certification as middle or high school mathematics and science teachers from fewer than 45 students to over 450 and the replication of this program at WKU will help to increase the number of students in Kentucky seeking teacher certification.

The Middle School Science Education major is for students who plan to teach science in grades five through nine. The MSSE major emphasizes a broad foundation in science, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, and physics, as well as advanced work in selected areas. The MSSE major requires completion of the program requirements for the Science and Mathematics Education program and the Middle School Science Education major. Upon successful completion of both majors, the student will earn a bachelor of science degree and will qualify for an institutional recommendation for a Kentucky Provisional Certificate for teaching in the middle grades (5-9) science field.

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.