



March 24, 2017

Dr. Christopher R.L. Blake  
President  
Middle Georgia State University  
100 University Parkway  
Macon, GA 31206

Dear Dr. Blake:

Thank you for the letter and prospectus of August 30, 2016, notifying SACSCOC of your intention to offer 50% or more of the credits for the Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education with Initial Teacher Certification (MAT) degree program via electronic distance learning, effective summer 2017. The institution is approved to offer 50% or more of the credits for a program online. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the new program on May 17, 2016.

The new degree program will build upon undergraduate programs in middle grades education, early childhood education and special education, as well as secondary education programs in biology, mathematics, English, and history. The new degree program supports the University mission, which includes addressing the increasing need for teachers in secondary education in the region. In addition, the program will provide the opportunity for those persons with undergraduate degrees in STEM, English, or history content areas to obtain a teaching certificate. Middle Georgia State University (MGA) will collaborate with a Professional Development School partner, the Macon-Bibb County School District, in the development of a co-teaching initiative.

The program will require the completion of seven courses, 30 credit hours, offered over three semesters. The curriculum includes graduate courses in curriculum and instruction, assessment and innovative pedagogies, the integration of digital media to engage students, multiple literacies, and fieldwork experience. The program is based on three main program goals and three student learning objectives (MAT-SLO). MAT-SLO 1 includes four sub-objectives, MAT-SLO 2 includes six sub objectives, and MAT-SLO 3 includes five sub-objectives. A cross tabulation chart linking student learning outcomes to course content was provided for the purpose of developing rubrics for SLO evaluation. Course descriptions and a course schedule were provided. The program will be taught in a cohort-based program using online instruction, field placement in a professional development school, and limited face-to-face flexible interactive sessions and seminars. Admissions and graduation requirements were provided. The program will be offered both online and at the Macon Campus. Initial program enrollment is 15 students, growing to a approximately 25 students in four years. The Graduate Program



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Coordinator and the Dean of the School of Education will provide administrative oversight for the program.

The Faculty Roster Form describes the qualifications of nine full-time faculty members teaching in the program. All faculty members have doctorates in education, instructional technology, or English (with an English/Language Arts teaching credential) with teaching experience and research backgrounds. All appear to be qualified to teach the coursework assigned. In addition, the School of Education will employ an Assistant/Associate Professor of Education who is a generalist with Secondary Education Credentials in the spring of 2017.

Library and learning resources appear to be adequate for the program. Standard library resources include adequate library staff, print and electronic materials, computer equipment, instructional services, and library consortia agreements. Discipline-specific resources include 2,866 books in print, 4,545 e-Books, 664 films, and 1,433 e-Journals. Discipline-specific electronic databases include ERIC, Education Full-Text, JSTOR, ProQuest Education Journals, and numerous others.

Student support services also appear to be adequate for the program. Along with standard academic support services, these services include career services, a graduate studies librarian, graduate assistantships, testing services, and technology resources and services.

Physical resources and financial support appear to be adequate for the MAT program. The institution has the appropriate technology infrastructure, course management systems, and technology training programs to support the online program. A reallocation of funds will be used to offset a deficit in revenues during years one through three of the new program, following which revenues should provide an excess over expenditures beginning in year four.

Faculty members and administrators will meet on a regular basis to assess the program and to make modifications for the improvement of program quality. LiveText will be the web-based portal that students will use to document and maintain an interactive and reflective performance portfolio. A Teacher Education Council (TEC) comprised of principals, Regional Educational Support Agency representatives, faculty, students, and university administration will meet annually to review program outcomes. A matrix of the MAT student learning outcomes, courses, assessment methods, and target performance for assessment was provided.

**The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Master of Arts in Teaching in**



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**Secondary Education with Initial Teacher Certification degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.**

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

The Commission wishes you success in this endeavor.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/LCS:iy

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Andy Clark, Vice Provost for Quality  
Dr. Cheryl D. Cardell