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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Advanced Education Opportunities for Teachers
and Other Employed Adults

Throughout its history Western Kentucky University has emphasized its role in the education of teachers for the schools of Kentucky. During the decade of the sixties, advancement in teacher certification requirements and in technological developments has necessitated expansion of the continuing educational opportunities available to Kentucky teachers and other fully employed individuals. Efforts to meet the needs of advanced students served by Western Kentucky University have taken the form of:

1. Comprehensive opportunities for graduate study during the summer school
2. A growing number of late afternoon and evening graduate classes to enable advanced students to pursue graduate study on a part-time basis in approved educational settings
3. Special courses offered during the summer school and the late afternoon and evening during the regular terms for teachers pursuing the equivalency program for advancement in the salary ranks of their school system
4. Special in-service programs for school systems and industry typically scheduled during a one or two day intensive conference
5. Independent study opportunities which may be pursued by advanced students who, by virtue of their previous study, may meet the prerequisites for such courses which are available in most of the University's academic departments
6. Internship, field studies, and practicum experiences which permit students to apply theoretical knowledge
7. Joint or cooperative programs with accredited institutions to extend and expand educational experiences of selected students

While some of these advanced educational programs or courses may present more flexible opportunities for study than have been available in the more traditional graduate programs, the University places emphasis

upon the quality of each and every program made available to its post-baccalaureate students and requires that all students participating in such programs be regularly enrolled and admitted to one of the advanced student categories of the Graduate College. The standards of the University's accrediting associations are adhered to in the offering of all courses designed to meet special education needs. Qualitative tests are applied to determine the appropriateness of the setting in which the course may be offered and the courses are related, whenever appropriate, to the educational milieu and the problems of the in-service teacher.

Western Kentucky University is making an effort to provide more flexibility in its graduate programs in keeping with the contemporary trends and demands for increased non-traditional graduate study. All graduate study of innovative nature must, however, meet all of the qualitative standards prescribed by the traditional graduate study. Although it is hoped that the University has developed some innovative dimensions in graduate study, all programs continue to be basically traditional in that only carefully selected courses may be offered outside the traditional scope and setting of the University. For example, the University is presently participating in consortia activities, cooperative doctoral programs, and has recently initiated a plan to offer selected courses for which academic standards can be maintained in off-campus settings and which are referred to locally as "extended-campus courses". A brief description of these activities follows.

1. Extended Campus Courses. In the conviction that all courses taught in any location be considered a part of the total educational program and must satisfy the requirements of each standard of our accrediting associations and the Graduate College, Western Kentucky University implemented the following Guidelines and procedures on January 1, 1973.

Guidelines for Extended-Campus Courses

- a. All courses taught in extended-campus settings will be qualitatively equivalent to those taught on campus in terms of (a) qualifications of the instructor, (b) course requirements, (c) availability of supplemental reference books and other instructional resources, and (c) the physical facilities.
- b. Proposed courses found to be qualitatively inferior to campus courses may be disallowed by the department head, academic dean, or graduate dean.

Procedures for Extended-Campus Courses

- a. The director of extended-campus instruction will be the responsible administrative officer for determining

the specific courses to be taught and the locations in which they will be taught.

- b. Having determined the need and location of a proposed course, the director of extended-campus instruction contacts the appropriate department head for an initial discussion of the advisability of offering the specific course in an extended-campus setting.
 - c. Upon receipt of initial approval of a proposed course by the department head, the director of extended-campus instruction will request that the department head initiate the Extended-Campus Course Approval Form by providing the necessary information and signatures.
 - d. The completed Course Approval Form will be forwarded to the dean of the appropriate college for review and approval and hence to the dean of the graduate college. The graduate dean will provide a copy of the Course Approval Form to the director of extended-campus instruction, the department head, and dean of the college.
 - e. Following the completion of each extended-campus course, the director of extended-campus instruction will submit an evaluation of the course to the department head, academic dean, and the dean of the graduate college. The evaluation will include (a) a course evaluation by students, (b) a course evaluation by the instructor, and (c) an evaluation by the director of extended-campus courses. All evaluations should refer to the quality of instruction, the adequacy of resources, and the adequacy of the physical facilities.
2. Independent Study, Internships, Practicum and other Field Experiences. The decision to permit the inclusion of independent study, internships, practicum and other field experiences in graduate programs is a departmental responsibility and is based on certain qualitative criteria. Statements of these criteria have been prepared by each department offering graduate study and is on file in the Graduate College.
 3. Cooperative Doctoral Programs. Western Kentucky University has inaugurated a joint doctoral program leading to the doctorate in education degree with the University of Kentucky. The program offers majors in several areas including school administration, counseling, supervision and instruction, elementary education, secondary education, higher education, educational psychology, and vocational education. The degree is awarded by the University of Kentucky but the program makes provisions for (1) joint selection and approval of candidates, (2) joint doctoral committees, and (3) joint planning and approval of programs.

The student may, upon approval of his committee, complete a number of the courses on the Western Kentucky University campus but must spend at least one academic year in residence at the University of Kentucky.

The University has also finalized a cooperative doctoral program in aquatic biology with the University of Louisville. This program has all of the features of the previously described program except there is no limit to the number of courses which may be taken on the campus of Western Kentucky University and the residence requirement may be fulfilled in either institution.

4. Consortium Programs. Western participates in three different consortium programs.
 - a. Tech Aqua Consortium-- a summer program in field biology is offered at Center Hill Reservoir in Tennessee through the cooperation of eleven colleges and universities. The courses are taught by members of the graduate faculties of the cooperating institutions. Each of the courses and instructors must be approved by Western's Department of Biology, Dean of the Ogden College of Science and Technology, and Dean of the Graduate College before the credits earned can be used to meet graduate degree requirements.
 - b. Graduate Consortium at Owensboro--Western Kentucky University, Brescia College, and Kentucky Wesleyan College formed a graduate consortium in 1969. The consortium makes it possible for Western to offer graduate courses in an academic setting which enhances instruction and increases availability of library resources and laboratory equipment. Brescia and Kentucky Wesleyan make their library facilities available to students enrolled in consortium courses and assume responsibility for books and materials sent to their respective libraries by Western.
 - c. Eagle University--Western is one of eight universities that make up the Eagle University Consortium located on the Fort Campbell military base. Graduate courses are taught by graduate faculty from the cooperating universities. In order to continue taking courses each student must make application and be accepted by the graduate college of one of the institutions prior to his second enrollment. Students who are admitted to the Graduate College at Western follow the same procedures as regular students. If some of the courses required in a student's program are not offered in the consortium, the student must come to campuses for the courses.