Program Highlights: Curriculum and Instruction, Advanced

Based on Key Assessment data and other evidence (press releases, program documents, and newspaper articles) please share one to five highlights about your program. Please provide links for external sources where possible:

1. We have recently hired two excellent faculty members, Dr. Lucilla Rudge, and Dr. Kate Brayko. Dr. Rudge is a native of Brazil, is fluent in 3 languages, and has extensive international education experience. She is teaching both Multicultural Education and Educational Psychology. Dr. Kate Brayko comes to us from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she was involved in research and service with children and teacher education candidates from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, in addition to diversity in terms of family structures, socio-economic backgrounds, and ability. Dr. Brayko has taught on the Tohono O’odham and Yakama reservations. She also has international educational experience, and teaches Sociology of Education, in addition to reading methods courses. The contributions of these new faculty members are making to these courses, our students, and our department, are invaluable.

2. We are exploring pursuit of National Board Certification as an option for our M.Ed. candidates.

3. We are making ongoing improvements to our M.Ed. programs, and have recently added a second research course to our core courses, Action Research. We are also in discussion about further refining our M.Ed. in a couple different directions: one that is practitioner-focused, with National Board certification, and one that is research-focused, for graduate students interested in pursuing doctoral work beyond their M.Ed.

4. We have met extensively to review the quality and sequence of our core graduate course offerings, and are working on approved substitutions to better meet individual candidate preferences. For example, students who are also pursuing special education licensure may substitute a new Assistive Technology course in lieu of, or in addition to, C&I 515, Educational Technology.

5. We are working to increase the number and quality of our online courses, as well as offering synchronous courses in a hybrid-format. Many of our graduate faculty are engaged in on-going professional development in innovative and effective online pedagogy, and this is reflected in the quality of our course offerings.