**Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in Curriculum and Instruction**

**DRAFT PROPOSAL – February 1, 2012 – PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**

Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry

College of Education

Florida Atlantic University

***Program Description and Rationale***

The Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in Curriculum and Instruction is designed for students who wish to continue graduate studies beyond the Master’s (M.Ed.) degree but do not desire the Doctor of Education degree (Ph.D.), which requires additional courses and a research dissertation. The Education Specialist Degree requires a minimum of 30credit hours above the M.Ed. degree. Students must pass an end-of-program examination. The degree must be completed within 7 years from the date a student is admitted to the Ed.S. degree program. A student can take no more than 1/3 of the total credits in this program as a non-degree student before being officially admitted to the program.

Rationale for changes: Previously, the Ed.S. Degree in Curriculum and instruction had requirements that did not differentiate this degree from a masters degree or from initial course requirements for the Ph.D. (e.g., EDF 7758 and EDA 6415). The Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry investigated Ed.S. degree programs in other universities in Florida and in the country and determined that the Ed.S. degree should be distinct from a masters and a doctorate in specific ways.

Students in the proposed Ed.S. degree are practitioners interested in deepening their work in a content field beyond the masters degree as well as assuming a greater role in their schools and communities. The issue of context is important for the Ed.S. student; the degree affords students the opportunity to examine school and community contexts through program evaluation, research, analysis of improvement strategies, and/or teaching in diverse classrooms and schools. We expect Ed.S. graduates to assume leadership roles as teachers, as curriculum specialists, and as staff in nonprofit organizations. A primary focus of our program is community engagement.

***Proposed Program (30 credits)***

**Core Courses: 12 credits (9 of which are choices)**

**The following course is required of all students:**

EDG 6223 Curriculum Leadership – **proposed required keystone course**

**Take 3 of the following courses:**

EDG 7221 Curriculum Theory

EDG 7251 Curriculum for School Improvement

EDF 7578 Critical Theory

EDF 7917 Instructional Policies and the Teaching Profession

EDG 6935 Seminar in Curriculum (options for a variety of topics at discretion of faculty and in consideration of Ed.S. student interests)

EDF 5931 Documenting and Assessing Teaching and Learning – proposed new course

**Research and Evaluation Courses: 6 credits**

EDG 6285 Program Evaluation

OR

EDF 6918 Action Research in Schools and Communities

AND

EDG 6932 Advocacy and Community Engagement in Education –

proposed new course\*

• Includes a field experience

Required Capstone Experience that culminates in a manuscript to submit for possible publication or a poster/paper presentation at a conference. The Capstone project (manuscript or presentation material) will be shared with faculty and graduate students at a colloquium or Research Brown Bag.

It’s likely that this course (EDG 6932) especially at the beginning will not be taught often enough to accommodate everyone’s schedules. We have a hard time with that already. Therefore, we could offer a DIS both fall and spring semesters regularly by the same name that allows the ‘internship’ type work geared directly to the students’ interests in the community. The DIS could then incorporate group sessions with those students meeting 5 times a semester. Such a DIS would be targeted to Ed.S. but would be open to all masters and doctoral students with permission only.

**Area of Specialization Courses (12 credits at the 6000 level or above)**

***Take 4 courses in one or two of the following areas:***

*Arts*

*Early Childhood*

*Foreign Languages*

*Global Studies*

*Mathematics*

*Multicultural Education*

*Reading*

*Science*

*Social Studies*

*Technology*

*TESOL*