Sonoma State University  
Department of Kinesiology  

Proposal for Discontinuance  
of the  
Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education Concentrations  

Preamble  

Following deliberation and a unanimous vote of the faculty of the Department of Kinesiology we formally request the discontinuance of the Physical Education [PE] and Adapted Physical Education [APE] Concentrations for a B.S. Degree in Kinesiology. This proposal has been vetted and approved by the School of Science and Technology Curriculum Committee and Dean.

Currently approximately 75% of our majors are in the Exercise Science and Interdisciplinary Concentrations. These students pursue careers in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy (Interdisciplinary Concentration), Physician Assistant, Chiropractic, Nursing and other Allied Health Careers that require additional education beyond the baccalaureate degree.

The other approximately 25% of our majors are in the Lifetime Physical Activity Concentration with an emphasis in Fitness and Wellness for those interested in careers in Personal Fitness Training, Fitness Instructor, Athletic Training or other Allied Health Careers that do not require a degree above the baccalaureate level or the Coach Education emphasis for those interested in Coaching Careers.

Summer 2013 our APE Professor retired (is FERPing so help with some coursework). Our PE Professor left for another position out-of-state Summer 2014. We have hired part-time lectures to continue some coursework in these areas.

The PE and APE Concentrations combined, as of Fall 2014, accounted for 1.04% of our majors; Fall 2015 0.26% (see chart on next page). During the 2013-2014 & 2014-2015 academic years most all of the students in these concentrations finished the required coursework for the Physical Education Teacher Education Waiver Program [PETE] and the Add-on Adapted Physical Education Waiver (if desired). In 2014-2015 the two (2) students left in the PE Concentration were sophomores who had not yet started their upper division coursework. We worked with one of the students to help her successfully transfer to another institution’s PETE Program. The remaining student is continuing at SSU and is taking only 2 courses as independent study to meet the guidelines of our authorized waiver. Since Fall 2014 we have discouraged students from enrolling in either of these concentration; by informing them that the department faculty was considering elimination of these concentrations.
**EPC Required Information Items**

1.) Tabulation of Students in Program

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2.) Kinesiology Department Program & Accreditation Reviews:

In 2010 the department successfully completed its last California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) subject matter program for the Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physical Education. The Adapted Physical Education completed its last subject matter review in 2014.

In the 2013 Kinesiology Department Program Review the external reviewer recommended: “While the physical education concentration is small, it mirrors the decline in majors across the State and is reflective of the statewide budget cuts. As the economy improves and teachers retire, there will be a tremendous need for teachers.”

Regarding the APE program the external reviewer noted “The Adapted Physical Education concentration has remained small but consistent, with post-bac students returning to school to complete the APE program in order to get an additional teaching certification, in addition to undergraduates. They recommended: “Consider elimination of the Adapted Physical Education (APE) and Coaching Concentrations and putting them as minors.” “In addition, there continues to be a consistent need for adapted physical education teachers across the State with many districts hiring APE teachers on emergency waivers, unable to find credentialed teachers.”

Physical Education has seen a decrease in numbers, as have other teacher education programs across the state and the nation. As school districts continue to face budget cuts, layoffs, and furloughs, fewer people are going into teaching due to the pay and a fear of not finding a job. Due to the lack of students seeking these concentrations / programs at SSU (section 1) and resources (section 3) the faculty of the Department of Kinesiology in Spring 2015 voted unanimously to seek the discontinuance of both the PE and APE Concentrations for a B.S. in Kinesiology.
3.) Specification of Lack of Resources

As mentioned in the Preamble over the past couple of academic years the Kinesiology Department has lost the two tenured faculty that coordinated the PE & APE programs. In terms of faculty resources the Kinesiology Department dedicated 2.50 of our 7.25 Tenured/Tenure-Track/Lecturer positions to instructing the coursework for these two concentrations. Prior to the faculty losses we were at 34.48% of our faculty resources devoted to courses required by 2.60% of our students.

When the Department of Kinesiology was given a tenure-track hire for Fall 2015 the department faculty decided to hire an Exercise Physiologist instead of replacing the positions in PE – APE. It was the unanimous decision of the department faculty to not replace these positions, supplement the current program in other concentrations and seek discontinuance of the PE and APE concentrations.

4.) Impact on Service Area

The 2013 Kinesiology Program Review document indicates: “The Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education concentrations are part of the mission of the CSU and have a complex accreditation process. Teacher education rises and falls nationally, especially in difficult budget times. Currently, a large population of teachers is eligible for retirement, and thus there will soon be a national shortage of teachers. The department supports maintaining these teacher education concentrations, both for the public good and for meeting the mission of the CSU. Our teacher education programs are highly regarded in local school districts and communities and within the SSU School of Education.”

As mentioned in the Specification of Lack of Resources Section above when the Department of Kinesiology was given a tenure-track hire for Fall 2015 the department faculty decided to hire an Exercise Physiologist instead of replacing the positions in PE – APE. Thus the Kinesiology Department will not be generating BS graduates with the appropriate waiver to enter the SSU’s School of Education’s Single Subject Credential Program in Physical Education.

Other universities still have strong programs that are credentialing physical educators and adapted physical education specialists that can fill open positions in Sonoma County. In addition SSU’s Single Subject Credential Program in Physical Education has 8 current students which is a historically strong number. So SSU’s program is doing a successful job or recruiting graduates of other institutions’ bachelor waiver programs to get their credential here in Sonoma County. Hopefully some of them will be offered permanent teaching jobs in Sonoma County (who wouldn’t want to live in Sonoma County; if they could afford to do so).
5.) **Effect on General Education**

None of the courses in the PE & APE Concentrations in Kinesiology were listed as General Education Courses. These students do take prerequisite General Education coursework in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. The other concentrations and the major as a whole has grown and is impacted so General Education courses in other Departments will not be adversely affected by a decline in these specific students.

**Summary**

It is with a heavy heart that these decisions were made. For the Faculty of the Department of Kinesiology it is a stark milestone to the changing demographics of our discipline that started as Physical Education. We will continue with an Added Authorization in APE in the Credential Program. It is also an exciting time and we are dedicated to providing the best education to the student population we have and the careers they want to pursue. We are proud to prepare our students with a solid kinesiological foundation that reflects both the sciences and humanities as critical thinkers and citizens that will make a difference in society as they enter careers and post-baccalaureate education in movement, fitness and allied health professions.

As stated in the preamble following deliberation and a unanimous vote of the tenure/tenure-track faculty of the Department of Kinesiology we formally request the discontinuance of the Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education Concentrations for a B.S. Degree in Kinesiology.