

**From:** [Smith, Randy](#)  
**To:** [Reed, Katie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Discontinuing, removing, or perhaps not offering the middle childhood education pathway at the Newark campus  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 9:52:10 AM

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**From:** MacDonald, Bill <macdonald.24@osu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 5:08 PM  
**To:** Smith, Randy <smith.70@osu.edu>  
**Cc:** Schmiesing, Ryan <schmiesing.3@osu.edu>  
**Subject:** Discontinuing, removing, or perhaps not offering the middle childhood education pathway at the Newark campus

Hi Randy,

I hope your semester is going well. It's that time of year when we gain confidence in our estimates of the numbers of students who will enter the early and middle childhood education programs in the coming academic year, and our advisors expect that we are not likely to have any students enter the MCE program next year. This means that we are likely to have to cancel several education courses we have scheduled for next fall. This is becoming a trend because so few Newark students are pursuing a degree in MCE. I believe that we would serve students better by recommending that they complete the degree program by changing to the Columbus campus. The budgetary pressures associated with our enrollment decline are increasing, and acting now could prevent a potential crisis in the future. Additionally, I believe that the quality of our MCE course offerings suffers because we are offering MCE and ECE courses in dual fashion, which means that one instructor teaches two MCE and ECE courses simultaneously. This is something that we started when Sandy Stroot was the interim director of the School of Teaching and Learning. I am awaiting word from Antoinette Miranda regarding whether or not we should continue this practice. If we do, then the maximum number of MCE students in a course would be unlikely to exceed five or six, which is far too low to warrant continuing the pathway at Newark.

I worry, too, that we are getting more state subsidy than we should (i.e., that we are getting credit for POM for two courses as opposed to one). Considering all of this, I think that we should remove the program from our website's list of degree programs that can be completed at the Newark campus, and to any promotional materials (e.g., our annual viewbook). Is that something that would need to be approved by the Council on Academic Affairs? Rather than see such a move as the removal of a program, could we consider it a pause, and prepare to offer MCE again when demand materializes? I believe that the impact on our tenure-track faculty would be minimal because we have plenty of field experience sections we can assign to them. Additionally, the Child and Youth Studies program has never produced more than four graduates from the Newark campus in a given year. It produced three graduates last year, and two the year before. Therefore, I would like to remove it, too, from our list. It requires us to offer courses outside the College of EHE, and we have been canceling those courses due to low enrollment.

Having said all of this, I note that we have plenty of time to discuss these possible moves. I wouldn't anticipate making changes until the fall of 2023 or winter of 2024.

Sincerely,

Bill

PS: I assure you that I am behaving.