

Date: April 8, 2019

Memo to: Amy Klinger; Jim Olive.

CC: Eddie Benedetto; Nancy McGraw; Kendra Wisdom.

From: Jennifer Groman

Re: EDIS 796 and the MEd requirements for Talent Development and GIS endorsement for former student Heather Abdalla

Hello all -

In Fall, 2017, Linda Billman met with me and shared her concern about the practice then in place to allow students working toward a Masters in Talent Development to use EDIS 710 (Field Practicum for Talent Development in Education, 2 credit hours) and EDIS 781/781 (Thesis Capstone in Talent Development Education/Inquiry Seminar in Talent Development Education, both 3 credit hours) instead of adding EDIS 796 (Internship in Talent Development). This practice had been in place for over 20 years under Jane Piirto. Dr. Billman decided that the College of Education would eliminate this allowance and require both Masters students and endorsement students to take EDIS 796 for their endorsement. This was finalized in Fall, 2017.

ODE stipulates that students need a log of 50 hours with gifted individuals as part of the capstone experience, but no other requirements (ie. Observations) are necessary. These logs are completed in EDIS 710, and so this course may fulfill the ODE requirement. In addition, if required to take EDIS 796, Masters students would be paying over \$1500.00 more to gain the endorsement, when they have fulfilled the ODE requirement in 710. With that in mind, I would like to recommend that we reinstate the allowance of EDIS 710 and EDIS 781/788 to work as the capstone/field component for the Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS) endorsement for Masters degree students.

In other words, a stand-alone endorsement would require 796, a Masters in Talent Development Education would automatically come with the endorsement. A Masters student, however, may not apply for endorsement until 710 and 781 are completed.

This issue came to my attention through a former student, Heather Abdalla. Heather graduated with her Masters in Talent Development in Spring, 2017 (before Dr. Billman made the new rule). She is now attempting to get her endorsement with the combination EDIS 710 and EDIS 781 and is having difficulty moving forward without EDIS 796. It is my opinion that she has completed the coursework necessary for a Masters degree as well as the endorsement. In addition, she completed her coursework while under Dr. Piirto, and thus would be “grandfathered” into an endorsement through the old COE rule. I recommend that we sign off on her endorsement and allow her to continue working with ODE to obtain it as soon as possible.

I hope we can move forward swiftly to reinstate the practice of the Ashland University Masters degree in Talent Development automatically coming with the endorsement.

If there is a need for a meeting to discuss or debate this, I hope we can make this happen soon. If not, and if you all agree, is it possible to simply have this approved by Amy and move it forward to Donna? I don't know the protocol on these kinds of decisions.

What are the next steps? Thank you!

Warmly,

Jennifer