

Substantive Change Report: Unifying NVU's Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs)  
4/26/21

Description of the Changes

Currently, Northern Vermont University-Johnson and Northern Vermont University-Lyndon, exist as two distinct EPPs each approved separately by the VSBPE under ROPA. We are requesting approval for NVU to become a single EPP, with a shared licensure office and officer, approved under a single ROPA process. Approval of this substantive change would mean the VSBPE is recognizing NVU as a single institution.

This would result in a single ROPA cycle for all NVU licensure programs, beginning with the 2021-22 academic year. This includes a single annual report; a single 7-year plan, based on each institution's current plan and to be developed upon approval of this substantive change report; a single institutional portfolio; and a single review team visit. Since NVU-Johnson completed its last review cycle earlier than Lyndon, we are proposing that NVU continue on the current Johnson timeline for reviews.

Johnson State College & Lyndon State College officially unified to become NVU through our regional accrediting body (New England Commission of Higher Education) on July 1, 2018. In January 2021, the Education faculty in both departments unanimously approved a motion to move forward with departmental unification. During the Spring 2021 semester, faculty have established plans for curriculum, staffing, instruction, budgeting, and program approval to support unification. We are requesting this change now through the VSBPE as the education departments at NVU-J and NVU-L are finalizing our unification as a single cross-campus education department beginning July 1, 2021.

Both campuses will begin offering a common *Inclusive Childhood Education* program (this will be submitted as a separate substantive change report). Concurrently, we will maintain other distinct programs offered at each campus ([NVU Education Department Licensure Programs](#)).

We will implement identical procedures for managing licensure requirements (e.g., the VT Licensure Portfolio and licensure files) on each campus. Establishing identical procedures will generate efficiencies for students, staff, faculty, and our regional school partners and cooperating teachers.

Department unification will also enhance faculty and staff collegiality, provide opportunities for sharing disciplinary expertise, scholarship, and problem solving, and distribute departmental service duties efficiently.

The unified NVU Education Department will support a cross-campus Department Chair position. As well, the Department will maintain the use of Program Directors for licensure programs. The unified NVU Education Department will be supported by an Administrative Assistant as well as a Placement Coordinator on each campus. The licensure operations and records will be coordinated by a shared Licensure Office with a single Licensure Officer and a single Licensure Office Coordinator.

### Effects on Students

A unified Education Department will achieve a number of ends. We anticipate that this unification will result in many benefits for students, including:

- 1) The Inclusive Childhood Education program currently offered on the Johnson campus will be offered across both campuses (see separate substantive change report).
- 2) Core education courses will be offered across both campuses, in a variety of formats (in-person, online, hybrid), increasing access and course availability for students regardless of home campus.
- 3) The Early Childhood Education program currently available online to Lyndon students will also be available to students matriculating on the Johnson campus.
- 4) Identical staffing structures and positions (i.e. licensure office coordinator and placement coordinator), will now be available to students across both campuses to help support their path to licensure.
- 5) The Teacher Education Workshops (TEWs), which have been a hallmark of the Johnson education program, will now help guide Lyndon students through the licensure process as well.
- 6) Digication will become the portfolio platform for students across NVU, and a single portfolio template and process will be used by all licensure candidates.
- 7) Faculty collaboration across the campuses will support continued innovation and improved teaching and learning for all students across both campuses.

### Measures of Effectiveness

We will measure the effectiveness of this change in the following ways:

- 1) We will compare data across institutions from the following sources, in order to assess the fidelity of the programs across campuses. We want to ensure equal opportunities for success regardless of a students' home campus:
  - a) VLPs

- b) Program Completer Surveys
  - c) Employer Surveys
- 2) We will monitor Praxis II rates to make sure students across both campuses are receiving the content area instruction they need to successfully achieve licensure.
  - 3) We will merge our current 7-Year Plans into a single plan. Success will be tracked by our ability to accomplish our cross-campus goals.