



Date: August 11, 2014

To: Instructors Teaching Courses for Drake University Credit

From: Chuck Sengstock, Drake University Extension Education Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Sengstock".

Re: EDMA Graduate Credit

Greetings, I hope your summer has been enjoyable and that you have been able to get a well-deserved break from the routine! I am writing to new and veteran educators who teach courses for Drake graduate credit through our Extension Education Division. For nearly 20 years, we have been offering a special credit designation known as "EDEX" as an affordable and meaningful alternative to Master's Degree required courses. At the time we started the EDEX division, there were few, if any, courses that were practitioner-based for teachers to use for license renewal or movement on the salary scale. Since that time, things have certainly changed. There are many important and useful classroom activities that can and should be a part of the courses we offer for graduate credit. To be in sync with the site-embedded, professional development approach to continuing education, we have a new credit valence that we are able to offer.

As of July 1, 2015, we will be using the "EDMA" designation only for the courses we offer with local schools or Area Education Agencies. This designation signifies graduate education courses that can be transferred into Master's Degrees as advisor approved electives for endorsement or degree programs. The EDMA courses will meet the Higher Learning Commission and Federal Government requirements for degree level courses and eligibility for Federal Financial Aid. EDMA courses include 15 instructor-led hours plus 30 hours of reading, writing, web-based and/or classroom application activities for each credit offered.

While we note that some of you are already teaching courses with the 15 + 30 approach, we are developing a web page that outlines the changes with resources to use if you need to re-configure an EDEX course into an EDMA offering.

Please note that the following elements of our Extension Education partnership will NOT change:

- Tuition will remain affordable and significantly lower than our full degree credit rate (Your school or agency gets to determine the final cost of your course)
- Students will continue to receive a free transcript after they complete each course
- Access to our student information system
- All electronic resources offered through Cowles Library
- Courses can be used for recertification and salary advancement



- Field coordinators will continue to travel throughout the state to visit classes and answer questions about EDMA course development
- Drake Extension Ed staff are available to assist with any aspect of your Drake teaching

During the last six weeks, our Agency Curriculum Director Terry Thorpe and I have traveled throughout the state to share these changes with your school or agency professional development coordinator. We are pleased that the personnel in charge of continuing education and Drake partnerships in your area are supportive of the change. We believe that not having two credit valences will eliminate confusion and will help standardize the graduate credit offered throughout our state.

Our website address remains: www.drake.edu/edex. Our local phone is (515) 271-3976 and our toll free number is 1-800-76-TEACH

Thanks to each one of you for the work you have already completed to advance the skills of teachers, counselors and school administrators. We hope to make this change as seamless as possible and stand ready to help you throughout the year.