

Proposal for the strengthening of the joint Masters in Teaching of the Sciences

The national and international need for teachers trained in mathematics and the sciences is by now well publicized. Smith College, with its well-established teacher training programs in the Dept of Education and Child Study, and its strong life sciences and mathematics faculty, is uniquely poised to address this national priority.

A program for the training of Science teachers is already in place at Smith, but it has, over the past few years, failed to attract significant numbers of applicants. We propose a strengthening of this joint program. The changes we envision would include:

- The creation of one or more specific courses, possibly co-taught by biology and education faculty, explicitly geared to teacher training and preparation
- The further integration of students in this program into the intellectual life of the life sciences departments (seminars, symposia, etc...)
- The formation of mentoring relationships between students in the program and faculty in the Life sciences departments, meant to help with both the content and pedagogical approaches to the teaching of science
- Additional advertising of this opportunity, and possibly the creation of an accelerated track for Smith undergraduates willing to pursue this profession (e.g. 5-year BA/MAT program)

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