

01/31/21

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Board provides a path to licensure for professionals wishing to enter the teaching profession without earning a second, third, or, in my case, a fourth degree. This program is five to eight thousand dollars less expensive than VCSU's Transition to Teaching program and unlike the latter, is self-contained. All course work is explicit and interpretable. Spending countless hours debating transfer credits with a varied array of departments and professors is NOT required. As a terminal degree professional who graduated with highest honors, I should not have to do this. With the American Board program, I did not; ALL candidates take the exact same course work.

I found the American Board examinations much more cognitively challenging than the Praxis II examinations. However, as a doctorate level professional, I appreciated the opportunity to be forced to think for two or three hours. Individuals who have successfully taken other graduate level entrance examinations such as the GRE, MCAT, DAT, or LSAT should have little difficulty passing the board's general education examination.

Unfortunately, it appears that American Board graduates will remain "hires of last resort." The preponderance of administrators will continue to hire bachelor only new graduates of teacher education programs they themselves attended. Such behavior is understandable; yet, it is my hope that these same administrators begin to look at American Board graduates before hiring foreign teachers. There are several second-career professionals that want to finish their careers in the classroom, if given an opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shane Wetzel