The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently informed us that effective January 1, 2003, it is possible for certified teachers to add some "content" areas to their existing Instructional I certificates by fulfilling the criteria below. Note that this unique option does not require specific coursework or a recommendation from traditional teacher preparation institutions such as Penn State.

1. Additional Instructional I "content" areas can be added to an existing, valid Pa. Instructional certificate where:
   a. PRAXIS tests are already in existence and used in PA,
   b. the PRAXIS test assesses academic "content",
   c. Pennsylvania has established Qualifying Scores and
   d. it is a "content" area OTHER THAN the following areas: Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Health and Physical Education, Safety-Driver Education and all areas related to Special Education including Teaching Speech/Language Impairments.

2. It should be noted that Pennsylvania Qualifying Scores have not been set for the following Instructional areas:
   a. Environmental Education
   b. Latin
   [Qualifying Scores for these 2 areas are expected to be completed by May 2003.]
   To add foreign language areas other than French, German and Spanish will require taking and passing a PRAXIS, or other professional test to be identified, which assesses foreign language "content". For example, certification for Latin will require the PRAXIS test (code #0560) in order to add Latin to an existing Instructional I certificate. Pennsylvania will establish Qualifying Scores for these additional tests in the future.

Individuals may add another Instructional I "content" area to an existing certificate by sending their official PRAXIS scores and the PDE application form "338G" (with designated payment) directly to PDE.