
Professional Education Unit and Specialty Area Program Approvals

The Background:

The Department of Education is responsible for the review of Professional Education Units (the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) – e.g., Union University) and the Specialty Area Programs (the endorsement program – e.g., elementary education) offered by in-state educator preparation providers. Action recommendations made by the department must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Steps in the review process include:

- Report prepared by the EPP that responds to the national accreditation standards and specialty program standards;
- On-site review conducted by a State Board of Examiners (BOE) team; for national accreditation, CAEP Board of Examiners team also conducts a review;
- BOE on-site review report submitted to the unit;
- EPP response to the BOE on-site review report submitted to the department;
- Commissioner's Advisory Committee meets to consider recommendations;
- Advisory Committee recommendations submitted to the department;
- Department presents recommendations to the State Board of Education; and
- Continuing CAEP accreditation/state approval comprehensive review occurs on a seven-year cycle, which may include focused reviews during the interim period.

The department recommendations for Professional Education Units and Specialty Area Programs fall into one of three categories: Full Approval, Approval with Minor Stipulations, Probationary Approval with Major Stipulations, or Denial of Approval. For units seeking NCATE accreditation, the accreditation status is reported.

Attached are action recommendations for Professional Education Units and Specialty Area Programs for the following educator preparation providers:

Joint CAEP/State Continuing Accreditation and Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Review:

Middle Tennessee State University

The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider was approved, along with 41 specialty area programs.

Christian Brothers University

The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider was approved, along with 21 specialty area programs.

State-only Review:*Fisk University*

As a result of the State-only Board of Examiners visit, it was determined that Fisk University met all NCATE unit standards at the provider-level with minor stipulations found in Standard 1: Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Professional Dispositions; Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation; and Standard 3: Field Experiences and Clinical Practice.

As a result of the specialty area program review, the team identified two programs as having major stipulations: Elementary K-6 and Special Education Modified K-12. These programs are recommended for Probationary Approval, Major Stipulations. In addition, minor stipulations were identified in three programs: English 7-12, French and Spanish 7-12, and History and Government 7-12.

The review team recommends full approval of 7 additional specialty area programs.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading.