
Educator Preparation Providers and Specialty Area Program Approvals

The Background:

Attached are action recommendations for Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) and Specialty Area Programs (SAPs) [SAPs are the endorsement program – e.g., Elementary Education K-5] for nine active EPPs and two prospective EPPs.

Comprehensive Reviews of Existing EPPs and SAPs

The Department of Education is responsible for the review of EPPs and SAPs. National CAEP accreditation and state approval comprehensive reviews occur on a seven-year cycle. EPPs may be subject to a focused review during the interim period which may result in a status recommendation change. Action recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to State Board rule 0520-02-04.

Steps in the review process include:

- Reports prepared by the EPP that respond to the CAEP national accreditation standards and state specialty program standards;
- On-site review conducted by a state-selected and -trained on-site review team using the Tennessee Comprehensive Review Handbook and, for EPPs seeking national accreditation, a nationally selected and trained CAEP on-site team;
- On-site review report submitted to the EPP;
- EPP response (rejoinder) to the on-site review report submitted to the Department of Education;
- Evaluation of all reviews by the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Educator Preparation (ACEP); and
- Department of Education presentation of recommendations to the State Board of Education.

The Department of Education recommendations for existing EPPs and SAPs fall into one of five categories: Full Approval: Exemplary Status; Full Approval; Full Approval: Minor Stipulations; Probationary Approval: Major Stipulations; or Denial of Approval. For EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation, the initial accreditation status is translated to an EPP state approval recommendation by the Department and reviewed by the ACEP. CAEP advanced accreditation decisions are not considered in State Board recommendations as advanced level programs are reviewed as SAPs and each receives a separate status recommendation.

Joint CAEP Accreditation and State Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Reviews

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

This joint CAEP/state review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Seven areas for improvement were identified; no critical deficiencies were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval with minor stipulations and full approval for the 23 specialty area programs.

Freed-Hardeman University

This joint CAEP/state review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. One area for improvement was identified; no critical deficiencies were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval, along with the 19 specialty area programs.

Carson-Newman University

This joint CAEP/state review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. No critical deficiencies were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval, along with the 31 specialty area programs.

State-Managed EPP and Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Reviews

Maryville College

This state-managed review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Some minor stipulations were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for the 12 specialty area programs.

Bryan College

This state-managed review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on three of the CAEP standards and falls below expectations on two standards. Some major stipulations were cited.

The provider is recommended for probationary approval with major stipulations and full approval for the seven specialty area programs.

Tusculum University

This state-managed review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Some minor stipulations were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for the 26 specialty area programs.

South College

This state-managed review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on three of the CAEP standards and falls below expectations on two standards. Some major stipulations were cited.

The provider is recommended for probationary approval with major stipulations and full approval for the one specialty area program.

Focused Reviews

Bethel University

This focused review took place in Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all reviewed CAEP standards. Some minor stipulations were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations. No SAPs were reviewed during the focused review.

Johnson University

This focused review took place in the Fall 2019. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all reviewed CAEP standards. No stipulations were cited.

The provider is recommended for full approval, along with the four reviewed SAPs.

New EPPs and SAPs Seeking Initial Approval

In accordance with the Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04, after review of a proposal for initial approval of an EPP, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one of the following:

- a) Initial approval. If initial approval is awarded, providers may begin enrolling and subsequently recommending candidates for licensure in approved specialty areas; or
- b) Denial of initial approval. If initial approval is denied, providers may not recommend candidates for licensure or identify programs as leading to licensure. Providers may submit a revised proposal for consideration during the next review period.

Western Governors University

The Department of Education reviewed Western Governors University proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAPs in elementary education, English, special education, mathematics, biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04, Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, and Literacy and Specialty Area Standards Policy 5.505 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Western Governors University meets expectations on the initial EPP proposal and should be granted initial approval to proceed with implementation of the new EPP and recommend eligible educator preparation candidates for endorsements in the areas of mathematics, biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics. The Department review team recommends denial of approval for the elementary education, English, and special education programs.

Western Governors University is therefore recommended for initial approval.

Motlow State Community College

The Department of Education reviewed Motlow State Community College proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAP for occupational educator preparation. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04, Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, and Literacy and Specialty Area Standards Policy 5.505 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Motlow State Community College does not meet expectations on the initial EPP proposal and should not be granted initial approval to proceed with implementation of the new EPP.

Motlow State Community College is therefore recommended for denial of initial approval.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on first and final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.