
Professional Education Unit and Specialty Area Program Approvals

The Background:

The Department of Education is responsible for periodically reviewing each Professional Education Unit (Unit) and the Specialty Area Programs it offers. Action recommendations made by the department must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Steps in the state review process include:

- A Unit self-study report that responds to the NCATE standards and state special area program standards;
- On-site visit by a State Board of Examiners (BOE) team; for CAEP (formerly NCATE) accreditation, CAEP Board of Examiners team also visits;
- BOE site visit report submitted to the Unit;
- Unit response to the BOE site visit report submitted to the Department;
- Review by the Commissioner's Advisory Committee for Unit and Program Approval;
- Advisory Committee action recommendations to the Department;
- Department action recommendations to the State Board of Education; and
- Continuing CAEP accreditation/State approval occurs on a seven year cycle which may include focused visits during the interim period.

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

The department recommends actions as specified in the attached document for Professional Education Units and Specialty Area Programs for the following institutions:

Joint CAEP/State Continuing Accreditation and Specialty Area Program Approval Visits:

Austin Peay State University
Belmont University
LeMoyne-Owen College
University of Tennessee Knoxville

State-only Unit and Specialty Area Program Approval Visits:

Welch College

The Recommendation:

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