
Recommendations for Professional Education Unit & Licensure Programs

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;
- 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 of Education 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 NCATE (CAEP)/State Continuing Accreditation and Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Review:

Trevecca Nazarene University

The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider was approved, along with 24 specialty area programs.

NCATE (CAEP) Only First-time Accreditation Review:

Bethel University

The NCATE accreditation review concluded that the EPP does not meet expectations on two of the six NCATE standards. Based on not meeting two of the six standards, the department recommends denial of approval.

Fiscal Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

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