



PRESS RELEASE

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Teacher Prep Programs Embrace Experimental Standards, Serve Autism Needs

SACRAMENTO – The accrediting body of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) approved new teaching and administrator preparation programs in Berkeley and Pomona that are the first to apply the experimental program standards adopted by the Commission. Additionally, three Southern California programs have transitioned to the new standards for the added authorization in Autism Spectrum Disorder, bringing the total number of programs addressing this much needed area of student services to thirteen, so far. Finally, additional programs in Special Education and Career Technical Education were granted initial approval, providing a well-rounded slate for reviewers at the late May meeting.

The Committee on Accreditation (COA), a body appointed by the Commission and tasked with accreditation of all educator preparation programs in California, performed in-depth review of the Single Subject Teaching Credential in Mathematics and Preliminary Administrative Services Credential programs proposed by **University of California, Berkeley** and **California State Polytechnic University, Pomona**, respectively. These programs were the first in California to write to the Experimental Program Standards that received Commission approval in March 2008. The newly updated, optional standards are designed to encourage innovations in educator preparation and investigation of those innovations with accountability to the profession. The focus is on increasing the profession's understanding of professional learning and improving professional practice. Both the Berkeley and Pomona institutions have developed program structures in which candidates complete nearly all coursework in advance of actual on-site practice, or residency. Once on-site, both the teacher and the administrator models provide for a supported and collaborative apprenticeship structure.

The addition of three Education Specialist programs offering Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) added authorizations continue the focus toward meeting the needs of students with autism in California. **Madera County Office of Education, University of California, Los Angeles Extension**, and **California State University, San Marcos** join the ranks of programs that are leading the way toward ensuring educators are prepared to support students with ASD.

Rounding out the initial program approvals on the COA's May meeting agenda were the Career Technical Education credential program offered by **Fresno Pacific University** and the Education Specialist Credential programs offered by both the **Sacramento and Ventura County Offices of Education**.

In addition to the initial program accreditations, the COA also took the following actions as part of an ongoing cycle of accreditation for approved programs. **California State University, Stanislaus** received Accreditation with Stipulations, as did **Fresno Pacific University**, and **San Diego Christian College** received Accreditation with Major Stipulations. These decisions follow the recommendations of a site visit team following extensive review of program data and documentation as well as interviews with faculty, program participants and graduates, administrators and public school personnel. Institutions receiving accreditation with stipulations have one year to address the program standards deemed not fully met and report back to the COA. During the year that an institution has to address stipulations, Commission staff works with the institution to correct the issues that were identified in the site visit.

The COA meets several times a year in a public forum. For additional information on the roles and responsibilities of the COA, and to review current and past agendas, please visit the following website: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa.html>. Information for specific institutions can be obtained by contacting the institution directly.

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