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Action

Professional Services Committee

Adoption of Proposed Preconditions for Audiology and School Nurse Services Credential Preparation Programs

Executive Summary: This item presents one proposed Precondition for Clinical Rehabilitative Services: Audiology preparation programs and one proposed Precondition for School Nurse Services preparation programs for Commission action.

Recommended Action: That the Commission adopt the proposed preconditions for Audiology and School Nurse Services credential preparation programs.

Presenter: Larry Birch, Director, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs

June 2010

Adoption of Proposed Preconditions for Audiology and School Nurse Services Credential Preparation Programs

Introduction

The proposed Preconditions for two credential programs: *Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology* and *School Nurse Services* were presented for information at the Commission's April 2010 meeting. This agenda item presents these preconditions for Commission consideration and action.

Background

As noted in previous Commission agenda items, preconditions are compliance requirements that must be met in order for an accrediting association or licensing agency to consider accrediting an institution, its programs or its schools. Preconditions determine a program sponsor's eligibility for accreditation. Some preconditions are based on state laws, while other preconditions are established by Commission policy. Previously, the Commission has adopted ten General Preconditions that apply to all educator preparation programs.

It has come to the attention of staff that there are two Services preparation programs which have Commission policy or legislation related to specific candidate eligibility requirements but no Preconditions have been adopted to address these requirements. Each approved educator preparation program is responsible for meeting all legal requirements. Each institution and the educator preparation programs it offers are reviewed for compliance with all Commission-adopted Preconditions through the Commission's accreditation system.

Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology Preparation Programs

The program standards for the *Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology* credential programs were adopted by the Commission in 2009. The design for preparation for an audiologist who works in the public schools is that an individual would have already completed training as an audiologist prior to being hired in the public schools and beginning the *Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology* preparation program. Once the proposed regulations are finalized, an individual who has earned a baccalaureate or higher degree and holds a California license as an audiologist will be eligible to apply for a preliminary services audiology credential. At the time the standards were adopted in 2009, no Preconditions were adopted by the Commission. The individual holding the *Preliminary Audiology Services* credential will then complete a Commission-approved *Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology* program prior to being recommended for the Clear Audiology services credential. The draft Precondition for the *Preliminary Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology* credential program is presented below:

A Commission-accredited program sponsor shall determine prior to recommending a candidate for a preliminary Clinical or Rehabilitative Services: Audiology credential, that the candidate holds both a baccalaureate degree, or higher, and a valid California license as an audiologist.

School Nurse Services Preparation Programs

The program standards for the School Nurse Services preparation programs were adopted by the Commission in 2007. At that time no Preconditions were adopted by the Commission. An individual who has earned a baccalaureate or higher degree and holds a license as a registered nurse is eligible to apply for a Preliminary School Nurse Services Credential. After completion of a Commission-approved School Nurse preparation program, the individual is recommended for the Clear School Nurse Services Credential.

To allow the Commission's accreditation system to monitor each approved school nurse preparation program, language regarding the entry requirements for each prospective school nurse candidate to hold both a baccalaureate degree or higher and a valid California license as a registered nurse is needed. The individual holding the *Preliminary School Nurse Services* credential will then complete a Commission-approved School Nurse Services program prior to being recommended for the Clear School Nurse Services credential. The draft Precondition for Preliminary School Nurse Services credential programs is presented below:

A Commission-accredited program sponsor shall determine prior to recommending a candidate for a preliminary school nurse credential, that the candidate holds both a baccalaureate degree, or higher, and a valid California license as a registered nurse.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Commission adoption of the proposed preconditions for Clinical Rehabilitative Services: Audiology and the School Nurse Services credential programs.