

Update on NCATE Redesign and Transformation Initiative

August 2009

Overview of this Report

At the May COA meeting, staff presented an agenda item outlining NCATE's revised accreditation system. This agenda item presents an update about NCATE's timelines for piloting components of its redesigned accreditation system and provides a template for California institutions to use to declare an intent to pilot parts of NCATE's redesign while still meeting the requirements of the Commission's accreditation system.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

On May 15, 2009 the NCATE Executive Board approved a resolution that endorsed and authorized the initial implementation and pilot testing of a redesigned accreditation process for all institutions seeking continuing NCATE accreditation. Staff attended the NCATE Clinic for States and Specialized Professional Associations on May 20-22, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky, at which the redesigned process was a central focus.

As explained by Jim Cilbulka, NCATE President, the impetus for the redesigned system is multifold. One impetus is to respond to the request from many institutional representatives to seek a more cost-effective and streamlined accreditation process. The second impetus is the need to "transform America's P-12 education system to one that supports higher levels of student learning and success across the spectrum of diverse learners."

The redesign comes in the form of two distinct NCATE accreditation options from which institutions may choose: 1) continuous improvement, and 2) transformation initiative. The *Proposal for the Redesign and Transformation of the NCATE Accreditation Process* has been included in this agenda item as Appendix A. This document includes an important introductory section that describes the rationale for the changes and the values and goals undergirding the NCATE redesign process. These goals include: 1) helping educator preparation programs attain excellence; 2) ensuring relevance in addressing the needs of stakeholders and the public; 3) recognizing that there are multiple pathways to the profession and ensuring that the accreditation process is inclusive of those diverse pathways; 4) fostering a more collegial effort to improve the quality of educator preparation and its graduates; and 5) improving the cost effectiveness and efficiency of the accreditation process.

Alignment with California's Redesigned Process

The continuous improvement process is designed to encourage institutions to move beyond the "acceptable" range for alignment with NCATE standards to the "target" range, thereby promoting excellence in educator preparation programs. While the Commission's process does not recognize a level above "standard met" that would be commensurate with the "target" level of NCATE, the overall approach of continuous improvement is closely aligned with the approach taken by the COA and the Commission in California's redesigned accreditation system. It is assumed that the majority of institutions in California would choose this particular option for NCATE accreditation.

The second option, transformation initiative, is intended to not only support continuous improvement for an institution's own programs, but to provide leadership for transforming educator preparation to improve P-12 student learning. It includes a research-based initiative that is submitted three years in advance of a site visit simultaneously with the Institutional Report, and a site visit focused on the particular area of inquiry. This option is open to any interested NCATE accredited institution in good standing. Staff believes that there may be interest in this option in California, especially among institutions that have identified research as integral to their institutional mission.

The review of the IR in advance of the site visit (1 year to 6 months in advance in the continuous improvement model and 3 years in advance of the transformation initiative process) will result in a more focused site visit with a smaller team. This change is also consistent with the operational approach taken by the Commission and the COA in the revised accreditation system.

While there may some timing and logistical issues to be addressed in order to ensure the CTC and NCATE processes work seamlessly, staff does not anticipate any major changes to the current accreditation system. As the details of the redesign emerge over the next few months, staff will review the newly adopted protocol with NCATE to determine whether any changes will be necessary as a result of NCATE's redesigned process.

Timeline for Implementation of Redesign

Full implementation of the new system is scheduled for fall 2012. However, NCATE has indicated it is interested in having institutions begin piloting various aspects of the redesigned system as soon as possible.

On May 29, Commission staff distributed a PSA regarding national accreditation providing institutions with information about the NCATE redesign. In addition, Commission staff will be surveying those institutions with visits in 2010-2011 to determine whether there would be interest in piloting various aspects of the new system. Because of the timeline for submission of the IR to NCATE, it is imperative these institutions determine their interest soon.

NCATE has released more specific information on how it will transition to the Continuous Improvement version of its accreditation system. Staff has compiled a table of the transition dates and provided the information in Appendix A. The staff has developed a template for California's NCATE institutions to use which allows the institution to identify which components of the NCATE redesign will be piloted by the institution. The draft template is attached as Appendix B. Staff intends to begin to collect this information from NCATE accredited institutions in California beginning later this summer.

Next Steps

The Commission staff will continue its close communication with NCATE throughout the summer as NCATE continues to establish revised processes and procedures related to the implementation of this revised accreditation system. An agenda item updating the COA on further developments and their potential impact on site visits for 2009-2010 and beyond will be provided at the next COA meeting.

Appendix A

NCATE Timelines for Continuous Improvement Pilots

Regular Continuing Visit	<i>Continuous Improvement Pilot Visit</i>	<i>Date</i>		
		<i>Spring 2011</i>	<i>Fall 2011</i>	<i>Spring 2012</i>
NCATE sends the head of the institution's professional education unit and the unit's NCATE coordinator an email message as a reminder of the upcoming visit and the submission of the Intent form. The unit completes and sends to NCATE the updated form, "Intent to Continue NCATE Accreditation."	NCATE sends the head of the institution's professional education unit and the unit's NCATE coordinator an email message as a reminder of the upcoming visit and the submission of the Intent form. The unit completes and sends to NCATE the updated form, "Intent to Continue NCATE Accreditation."	January 2009 (2 years prior to semester of visit)	September 2009 (2 years prior to semester of visit)	January 2010 (2 years prior to semester of visit)
The unit submits to NCATE the dates of the on-site visit after confirmation from the state education agency if the state has a partnership with NCATE.	The unit submits to NCATE the dates of the on-site visit after confirmation from the state education agency if the state has a partnership with NCATE.	January 2010 (1 year prior to semester of visit)	Sept. 2010 (1 year prior to semester of visit)	July 2010 (18 mos prior to semester of visit)
	<i>The unit submits its Institutional Report (IR) in AIMS for review by a Previsit BOE Committee. Electronic exhibits must also be available to team members at this time.</i>	<i>Jan. 15 – Oct., 31, 2010 (6-12 mos before visit date)</i>	<i>By July 15, 2010, or February 1, 2011</i>	<i>January 15 – April 30, 2011 (1 year prior to visit)</i>
	<i>The Previsit BOE Committee reviews the IR, electronic exhibits, and annual reports and prepares a feedback report to the unit on areas for concern to be addressed before the on-site visit. NCATE notifies the unit that the feedback from the Previsit BOE Committee is available in AIMS.</i>	<i>April 1 – December 31, 2010 (approximately 2 months after IR is submitted)</i>	<i>November 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 (approximately 2 months after IR is submitted)</i>	<i>March 15 – July 31, 2011 (approximately 2-3 months after IR is submitted)</i>
The unit publishes an announcement of the upcoming visit in local news media and on its website to invite third-party testimony.	The unit publishes an announcement of the upcoming visit in local news media and on its website to invite third-party testimony.	July-October 2010 (6 months prior to visit date)	March-June 2011 (6 months prior to visit date)	July-October 2011 (6 months prior to visit date)

Regular Continuing Visit	Continuous Improvement Pilot Visit	Date		
		Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012
NCATE notifies the unit to check AIMS for the name and address of the assigned BOE team chair who will conduct the on-site review.	NCATE notifies the unit to check AIMS for the name and address of the assigned BOE team chair who will conduct the on-site review.	August-September 2010	April-May 2011	August-September 2011
NCATE notifies the unit to check AIMS for the names and addresses of the assigned BOE team members who will conduct the on-site visit.	NCATE notifies the unit to check AIMS for the names and addresses of the assigned BOE team members who will conduct the on-site visit.	November-December 2010	June-July 2011	November-December 2011
NCATE sends a copy of the third-party testimony to the BOE team chair and the unit for comment. The unit sends to NCATE its response to third-party testimony, if any. NCATE sends a copy of the institution's response to third-party testimony, if any, to the BOE team chair.	NCATE sends a copy of the third-party testimony to the BOE team chair and the unit for comment. The unit sends to NCATE its response to third-party testimony, if any. NCATE sends a copy of the institution's response to third-party testimony, if any, to the BOE team chair.	November 2010-January 2011 (2-3 months before the visit date)	July-September 2011 (2-3 months before the visit date)	November 2011-January 2012 (2-3 months before the visit date)
The unit emails a draft of the Institutional Report (Online IR or Word version) to the BOE team chair for review prior to the previsit.	<i>The unit emails a draft of its response to the feedback from the Previsit BOE Committee to the BOE team chair for review prior to the previsit.</i>	<i>60 days prior to the visit begin date</i>		
The BOE team chair, state team co-chair, and state consultant conduct the previsit electronically or in person.	The BOE team chair, state team co-chair, and state consultant conduct the previsit electronically or in person.	30-60 days before the visit begin date		
In AIMS, the unit submits its final version of the Institutional Report (IR) to NCATE and BOE team members.	<i>In AIMS, the unit submits its final version of its response to the feedback report from the Previsit BOE Committee.</i>	<i>After the previsit, approximately 30 days before the visit</i>		
BOE team of 5-8 persons and state team (if a joint or concurrent visit) conduct the on-site review to determine whether standards continue to met. The visit is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday to Wednesday.	<i>BOE team of 3-5 persons, including state representative(s) if a joint visit, conduct the on-site review to validate that standards continue to be met and follow-up on areas of concern addressed in the Previsit BOE Committee report. The visit is scheduled for Sunday to Tuesday afternoon.</i>	<i>Date of Visit</i>		

Regular Continuing Visit	<i>Continuous Improvement Pilot Visit</i>	<i>Date</i>		
		<i>Spring 2011</i>	<i>Fall 2011</i>	<i>Spring 2012</i>
NCATE notifies the unit that the final BOE Report is available in AIMS.	NCATE notifies the unit that the final BOE Report is available in AIMS.	Within 52 days after the end of the visit		
The unit submits the Institutional Rejoinder in AIMS.	The unit submits the Institutional Rejoinder in AIMS.	Within 30 days after submission of the BOE Report		
The BOE team chair submits a Response to the Rejoinder if he/she chooses to do so.	The BOE team chair submits a Response to the Rejoinder if he/she chooses to do so.	Within 2 weeks after submission of the rejoinder		
The Unit Accreditation Board renders an accreditation decision.	The Unit Accreditation Board renders an accreditation decision.	October 2011	April 2012	October 2012
NCATE notifies the chief executive officer of the institution, the unit head, and the state agency of a partnership state that the accreditation letter and action report are available in AIMS. A copy of the report will be mailed to the CEO.	NCATE notifies the chief executive officer of the institution, the unit head, and the state agency of a partnership state that the accreditation letter and action report are available in AIMS. A copy of the report will be mailed to the CEO.	Within two weeks after the UAB meeting		
Unless a decision is being appealed, NCATE sends information on the accreditation decision to the U.S. Department of Education and CHEA. The list is also sent to the chief state school officer and state affiliates of NEA, AFT, and NSBA. It is also published on the NCATE website.	Unless a decision is being appealed, NCATE sends information on the accreditation decision to the U.S. Department of Education and CHEA. The list is also sent to the chief state school officer and state affiliates of NEA, AFT, and NSBA. It is also published on the NCATE website.	One month after notification of accreditation decision		

NOTE: *Italicized* sections indicate requirements that are unique to the continuous improvement option.

NCATE released information July 6, 2009

Appendix B

NCATE Redesign and California Institution Proposal Template

Institution

Next Accreditation Site Visit

Individual Submitting Information

Email

Process	NCATE Redesign Process	Plan to Pilot Process
Institutional Report	Option to organize IR around (1) whole standards or (2) each element of standards.	
	Reduced number of exhibits includes documentation previously submitted by units in national program reports, annual reports, and Title II submissions.	
	For units with only one program (such as educational leadership, school psychology, or music), focused on programs report, supplemented by data and descriptions for Standards 2-6.	
	Submitted substantially before visit (see continuing and first accreditations for specific times).	
Reviewed electronically by Previsit BOE Committee (drawn from BOE plus representative from partner state) to provide feedback & identify any areas of concern.		
On-site Visit	Unit may address any identified concerns in writing or at visit, but no additional IR is required before visit	
	3-day visit conducted by a 3-5-member BOE team plus state representatives.	
	Focus on areas of concern identified by PBOEC.	
	Formal process to be developed for shared input on selection of BOE team members.	
Annual Reports: Reviewed by PBOEC to help determine that standards continue to be met; subsequent reports reviewed at visit. No changes now; some may be made for 2009-10.		

Please submit to Teri Clark (tclark@ctc.ca.gov) to indicate intention to pilot one or more components of the redesigned NCATE system.

Continuing Accreditation (in addition to General, above)

Indicate the institution's intent to pilot- Continuous Improvement or Transformation Initiative

Process	NCATE Redesign Process	Plan to Pilot Process
Option 1: Continuous Improvement	IR makes case for continued satisfaction of standards and organized around them but focuses on changes since the previous visit & progress toward target level of one or more standards.	
	Submitted 1 year before visit (Could be 6 months for Spring 2010 site visits)	
Option 2: Transformation Initiative (TI)	IR makes case for continued satisfaction of standards but is organized around unit's continuous improvement system (with cross-walk to standards) and is accompanied by proposal for initiative related to one or more standards designed both to improve unit's educator preparation and provide leadership for field.	
	Submitted mid-cycle.	
	Eligibility for TI based on finding by PBOEC that unit likely to continue to meet standards at end of cycle.	
	TI proposal reviewed by new Committee on Transformation Initiatives for approval. In consultation with unit, consultant identified to work with unit on TI.	
	Findings of TI shared on NCATE's website and at conferences.	

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