

Discussion of Staff Recommendation to Allow Institutions to Propose New Credential Programs

March 2011

Overview of this Report

This agenda item presents information on the possible actions the COA may elect to take after an institution has hosted an accreditation site visit and asks the COA to discuss the circumstances when it would prohibit an institution from proposing new credential programs.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

The COA has developed an *Accreditation Handbook* (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/accred-handbook.html>) that clearly details the Commission’s policies related to accreditation and the implementation of those policies. In Chapter 8 of the *Accreditation Handbook* a table is presented which identifies the range of possible actions that the COA may take after an accreditation site visit. The table is reproduced below.

Table 1: Requirements the COA may impose as follow-up activities

Institution Actions Following an Accreditation Site Visit	Accreditation (✓ Indicates a possible follow-up activity)			
	Accreditation	with Stipulations	with Major Stipulations	with Probationary Stipulations
No required follow-up beyond the routine accreditation activities, i.e. Biennial Reports and Program Assessment.	✓			
Submit <i>Seventh Year Follow-up Report</i> addressing all identified area(s) of concern and/or questions.	✓			
Submit <i>Seventh Year Follow-up Report</i> addressing all stipulation(s), identified area(s) of concern and/or questions.		✓	✓	✓
Provide addendum to Biennial Report and Program Assessment documents addressing all stipulation(s), identified area(s) of concern and/or questions.			✓	✓

Institution Actions Following an Accreditation Site Visit	Accreditation (✓ Indicates a possible follow-up activity)			
	Accreditation	with Stipulations	with Major Stipulations	with Probationary Stipulations
Submit periodic Follow-up Reports (30 days, 90 days, as determined by the COA) to ensure that appropriate action is being taken in a timely manner.			✓	✓
Re-visit by CTC staff and team lead.		✓	✓	✓
Re-visit by CTC staff, team lead, and 1 or more team members.			✓	✓
Institution notifies all current and prospective candidates of the institution's accreditation status.			✓	✓
Institution is prohibited from accepting new candidates in one or more programs until the stipulations have been removed.				✓
Institution is prohibited from proposing new programs until the stipulations have been removed.				✓

The actions identified in Table 1 are options for the COA and the checkmarks indicate the usual actions the COA may take for each of the four possible accreditation decisions but the COA is not restricted by the checkmarks in Table 1.

Proposing New Educator Preparation Programs

In all accreditation site visit reports there is a standard section of language that follows the list of all approved educator preparation programs sponsored by the institution. This standard language is provided here:

Staff recommends that:

- The institution's response to the preconditions be accepted.
- The institution be permitted to propose new credential programs for approval by the Committee on Accreditation.
- The institution continue in its assigned cohort on the schedule of accreditation activities, subject to the continuation of the present schedule of accreditation activities by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The language states that staff recommends these actions. During its deliberations of several accreditation reports in 2010, the COA raised questions about the appropriateness of allowing institutions with major or probationary stipulations to offer new credential programs. For a few institutions, the COA changed the statement “The institution be permitted to propose new credential programs for approval by the Committee on Accreditation” to “The institution not be permitted to propose new credential programs.” In a debrief of one COA meeting, it was suggested that the COA should discuss when an institution should be allowed to propose new educator preparation programs and when it should be prohibited from proposing new programs.

Recently the prohibition against proposing new credential programs has been placed on an institution if the COA has decided upon an accreditation decision of *Probationary Stipulations* or *Major Stipulations*. Table 1 identifies that restricting an institution from proposing new programs is a likely action for Probationary Stipulations but does not indicate that it is likely when the accreditation decision is *Major Stipulations*.

In order to assist staff to determine whether or not to recommend that an institution with stipulations be allowed to offer credential programs and to ensure consistent application of these recommendation by the COA, some guidance from COA should be developed. Staff asks the COA to further discuss what conditions should be considered when determining whether to allow an institution to offer new credential programs.

Next Steps

Based on the COA’s discussion, staff will prepare an agenda item for a future COA meeting.