

Report of Program Accreditation Recommendation: Bard College August 2011

Overview

This report consists of a recommendation to approve the initial accreditation of a professional preparation program based upon institutional responses to program standards. This recommendation is not included in the customary program approval item because it is an unusual request. The applicant Bard College has not yet been granted Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Initial Institutional Approval for Bard College is on the Commission's August 4, 2011 agenda.

The single subject preliminary preparation program at Bard College has been in operation since 2010-11 and a number of candidates completed the program as of August 2011. Bard College has 17 program completers of whom 11 have job offers for the 2011-12 school year. Therefore, staff recommends that the COA take action to approve the preliminary teacher preparation program at its August 2-3, 2011 meeting, contingent on the Commission's August 4, 2011 approval of Bard College as an institution eligible to offer educator preparation in California. This recommendation is being made now because program reviewers have determined that the institution has met the applicable teacher preparation program standards and because many of the program completers have job offers for the 2011-12 school year, whereas the next opportunity for the COA to take action to approve the single subject teacher preparation program would not be until late October 2011.

Staff Recommendation

That the Committee on Accreditation grant initial accreditation to the following preparation program, as recommended by the program reviewers. Program approval should be effective August 4, 2011 contingent on Bard College earning Initial Institutional Approval at the Commission's August 4, 2011 meeting.

Bard College Program of Professional Preparation for the Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential

The Bard College Single Subject Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program is offered in Mathematics, English, Science, and History-Social Science. The program is a student teaching based program that implements the CalTPA as its performance assessment model. During the 2010-11 school year the History-Social Science and English preparation programs were offered in California. Bard College operates in a cohort model with a maximum of 15 candidates in each subject specific program.

Founded in 1860, Bard College is a four-year residential college emphasizing the liberal arts and sciences. The main campus in New York is located in the Hudson Valley. This campus offers the Bachelor of Arts degree with concentration in more than forty (40) academic programs serving approximately 2,600 students in both graduate and undergraduate programs. Bard College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The college has been a member

of this organization since 1922. Reauthorization was most recently approved in 2007. Bard College proposes to establish a presence on the west coast with a commitment to provide the south Central Valley farming communities with a graduate teacher education program that will offer students a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) while also earning a California Teaching Credential. The campus is located in Delano, a farming community north of Bakersfield. The Bard College administration is collaborating with Paramount Farms, the leading employer in the area, to provide more effective teachers for under-represented minority students traditionally located in such farming communities. (Bard College response to *Common Standard 1: Educational Leadership*)

Candidates for the secondary credential profit from the cooperative spirit that exists between the Bard College/MAT program and the public schools that service the region. The program is located in Delano, on the Paramount Bard Academy campus. From the onset of the design of the program the expectation was to provide high quality secondary teachers for the children of the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. Since the beginning of the process, Bard College personnel have met with and provided information to school districts from Delano to Porterville, and from Avenal to Bakersfield. All districts have been invited to be collaborative partners to shape the quality and expectation of the secondary program. It is expected that they will play a significant role in the development of the Bard College program that is receiving strong student support in all content areas.

Partnerships are built into the structure of the Bard College/MAT program through the institution of the Advisory Council. This council is chaired by the Director/Dean and includes content specific instructor, teacher preparation instructors, and representatives from the collaborating school districts. A representative from the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Office of Induction Collaborative, participates on the council given that county office represents all small districts in Kern County. Bard College/MAT representatives also participate with other colleges in the BTSA 5 program which includes all Induction Programs operating in Kern County. This group meets monthly with representatives from all colleges providing teacher preparation in Kern County and the district Induction Directors to discuss issues facing teacher candidates, beginning teachers, support providers and colleges. Included in the discussions are the transition to induction, professionalism, teacher recruitment, district needs and quality of candidates. (from the Bard College response to *Program Standard 2: Communication and Collaboration*)

Dean Ric Campbell plans to be in attendance at the August 2, 2011 COA meeting to respond to any questions that the COA may have about the Bard College single subject preliminary teacher preparation program.