

COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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TO: Deans of Education and Directors of Teacher Education at
Institutions with Approved Experimental, Exploratory or
Pilot Programs

FROM: John F. Brown
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Duration of Approval of Experimental, Exploratory and
Pilot Programs

Three years is the standard term of approval of an experimental, exploratory or pilot program of professional preparation. On June 4, 1982, the Commission adopted policies for extending this approval period if such an extension is requested by a college or university. The purpose of this letter is to report to you the substance of the Commission's new policies.

To extend the approved status of an experimental, exploratory or pilot program, the college or university must (1) operate the program in accordance with its proposed and approved design, (2) submit annual reports of what has been learned from the program, (3) request an extension, (4) show why the program should continue as an experimental, exploratory or pilot program, and (5) show how the program's purpose(s) and design vary from the Commission's standard guidelines of program design.

In adopting these requirements for extension of approval, Commissioners emphasized that each extension will be based on demonstrated need for continued experimentation or exploration. The institution must show that three years are not sufficient to accomplish the experimental, exploratory or pilot purposes of the program. In the absence of any of the five requirements, the program's approval status will be allowed to expire after three years of operation.

In June the Commission also adopted policies regarding candidates who enter experimental, exploratory or pilot programs while those programs are approved, but who complete the programs after their approval has expired. The Commission will issue credentials to applicants provided they matriculated in approved experimental, exploratory or pilot programs

at least nine months prior to the expiration of the programs' approved status. Candidates must also complete such programs no more than eighteen months after approval expires.

For example, in the case of a program whose approval expires on June 30, 1984, candidates must matriculate by October 1, 1983, and complete all requirements of the program by January 1, 1986, in order to be eligible for certification by the Commission.

Institutions that operate experimental, exploratory and pilot programs have the responsibility to inform candidates of these Commission policies. They will also be required to verify the matriculation and completion dates of candidates whose credential applications are received by the Commission after the approved status of an experimental, exploratory or pilot program has expired.

Commissioners and staff members are committed to responsible experimentation and innovation in the preparation of future educators, and are enthusiastic about the experimental, exploratory and pilot programs that are already underway in California institutions. We encourage proposals to establish additional programs, and hope the policies explained above will enable institutions to operate existing programs responsibly and effectively.