Evaluation of the Accreditation System
Professional Services Division
October 2008

Overview of this Report
This report provides more detail on work toward a comprehensive evaluation of the accreditation system.

Staff Recommendation
This is an information item. COA discussion will help guide staff on further work.

Background
COA members have shared input at several meetings on the development of an evaluation system for accreditation activities. The goal has been to ensure that the COA collects, analyzes and uses data for on-going improvement of the accreditation system. In order to achieve the goal it is necessary to ask three overarching questions.

1 - How well is each accreditation activity and the system itself being implemented?

2 - Does each accreditation activity and the system achieve the purposes set for the accreditation system?

3 - Does the accreditation system make a difference in educator preparation?

Staff proposes an evaluation system that addresses the first two questions for all three accreditation activities—biennial reports, program assessment and site visits. There is then a separate evaluation design proposed for an overall evaluation of the accreditation system.

COA discussion on the tables that follow will enable staff to begin implementation of parts of the system and refine other evaluation activities.

EVALUATION OF THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM
COLLECT, ANALYZE AND USE DATA FOR REPORTING AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

Biennial Report

Activity and Questions	Data Collected	Analysis	Reporting & Improvement
1—How well is the biennial report being implemented?	BR1.1.1 Summary data	BR1.1. Number and types of programs submitted, trends, interesting findings.	BR1.1. Report to COA
	BR1.1.2 On-line surveys from Program Coordinators and Deans	BR1.2. Collection of information from those who completed Biennial Reports re: what was useful in completing the report, what was not, etc.	BR1.2. Report to COA and make any needed changes to instructions, webpage information, technical assistance meetings.
	BR1.1.3 Hold a focus group of Biennial Report completers to discuss process and elements that need improvement.	BR1.3. Staff collects responses to questions posed by staff and collected without rejoinder, identify themes	BR1.3. Report to COA
2.1—Does the Biennial Report provide useful information to the Program Assessment readers?	BR.2.1 Strategies to determine the answer to this question are under consideration and would first be implemented with Program Assessment for the Orange Cohort in 2008-2009.		
2.2—Does the Biennial Report provide helpful information to the Site Visit process and, in turn in making accreditation decisions?	BR2.2 Strategies to determine the answer to this question are under consideration and would first be implemented with the Site Visits from the Orange Cohort in 2010-2011.		
3—Is the Biennial Report serving the objectives of the accreditation system?	BR3.1 Compile information from all sources noted above.	BR2.1 Staff summarizes information noting themes and trends.	BR2.1 Report to COA to be included in the Annual Report.

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Program Assessment

Activity and Questions	Data Collected	Analysis	Reporting & Improvement
1—How well is program assessment being implemented?	PA1.1.1 Summary report on documents submitted. PA1.1.2 On-line surveys from Program Coordinators and Deans PA1.1.3 Hold a focus group of Program Assessment completers to discuss process and elements that need improvement.	PA1.1 Number and types of programs and institutions, trends PA1.2 Compile information from survey as to what reader comments were helpful and what they found useful in the activity. PA1.3. Staff collects comments, notes themes	PA1.1 Report to COA PA1.2 Report to COA Changes in instructions, webpage information, technical assistance meetings PA1.3 Report to COA
2—Does Program Assessment provide helpful information to the Site Visit process and, in turn in making accreditation decisions?	PA2.1 Strategies to determine the answer to this question are under consideration and would first be implemented with the Site Visits from the Yellow Cohort in 2009-2010. They might include: Questions asked on evaluations for the institution and site team members as to how well the Preliminary Report of Findings from Program Assessment was used during the site visit		
3—Is Program Assessment serving the objectives of the accreditation system?	PA3.1 Compile information from all sources noted above.	PA3.1 Staff summarizes information noting themes and trends.	PA3.1 Report to COA to be included in the Annual Report.

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Site Visits

Activity and Questions	Data Collected	Analysis	Reporting & Improvement
1—How well are site visits being implemented?	SV1.1.1 Evaluation forms sent to institutional representatives, team leaders, consultant and team members with questions regarding the visit process as well as recommendations for improvement.	SV1.1 Staff to note themes in comments.	SV1.1 Report to COA and propose changes to BIR training, consultant and/or team lead training. Propose changes to information given to institutions as they prepare for the site visit.
	SV1.1.2 Hold meetings with Team Leaders, Consultants and COA to determine what components of the process are working (e.g., report writing, reporting to COA), and what parts are not working	SV1.1.2 Staff to take notes during meeting and note themes from the comments.	SV1.1.2 Report to COA and propose changes in instructions, webpage information, technical assistance meetings. Also propose changes to information given to institutions as they prepare for the site visit.
	PA1.1.3 Note how stipulations are addressed; results of re-visits and follow up activities; and changes in Biennial Reports after a site visit.	SV1.1.3 Staff to summarize information and note themes from the information.	SV1.1.3 Report to COA and summary noted in the Annual Report
2—Are site visits serving the objectives of the accreditation system?	PA2.1 Compile information from all sources noted above.	PA2.1 Staff summarizes information noting themes and trends.	PA2.1 Report to COA to be included in the Annual Report.

Overall Impact of the Accreditation System

Activity and Questions	Data Collected	Analysis	Reporting & Improvement
O.1—What is the overall impact of the accreditation system?	O.1.1 Survey responses from programs after once through the 7 year cycle…How has the system impacted your program? What difference has it made for program completers?	O.1.1 Staff to summarize responses. Consider problems, if any noted repeatedly, and make suggestions for change/improvement.	O.1.1 Report to COA and propose changes to BIR training, consultant and/or team lead training. Propose changes to information given to institutions as they prepare for the site visit.
	O.1.2 At several points in the cycle, select some institutions to see if changes can be tracked from biennial reports to program assessment to site visits.	O.1.2 Staff to summarize responses. Consider problems, if any noted repeatedly, and make suggestions for change/improvement.	O.1.1 Report to COA and propose changes to BIR training, consultant and/or team lead training. Propose changes to information given to institutions as they prepare for the site visit. Report summary in the Annual Report
	O.1.3 Call together a focus group of Deans who went through the process to talk about changes made at the institution based upon the site visit and other accreditation activities.	O.1.3 Staff to summarize information and note themes from the information.	O.1.3 Report to COA and summary noted in the Annual Report
O.2—Does the accreditation system have an impact on the preparation of teachers in California?	O.2.1.1 Survey employers. O.2.1.2. Use results of CSU surveys on teacher preparation and consider expanding the survey to include other credential preparation areas. O.2.1.3 Use Cal TIDES data as in information source. O.2.1.4 Use doctoral students to research questions about the system and its impact.	O.2 Staff summarizes information noting themes and trends.	O.2 Report to COA to be included in the Annual Report.