Update and Discussion on Annual Accreditation Data System
February 2018

Overview of this Report

This agenda item presents to the COA information about the ongoing development and implementation of the Commission's annual Accreditation Data System (ADS).

Background

A major component of the new accreditation system is the development and implementation of an annual accreditation data collection system, the "ADS.". The ADS was designed to serve as a central location for the collection of data related to Commission-approved educator preparation programs. In the first year of the ADS system, specific information will be collected from all Commission approved institutions. Commission staff worked initially with stakeholders and then with a contractor to develop the infrastructure for the accreditation data system. Some of the updated accreditation system's objectives that will be accomplished by the ADS include:

- Providing a consistent means of collecting similar types of data across institutions and programs.
- Providing the Commission with more real time data than previous reporting mechanisms.
- Providing the Commission with a more efficient way to gather some basic statewide information about various aspects of programs operating in California (such as how many institutions offer a pathway that integrates the bachelor's degree and a teaching credential)
- Allowing accreditation teams access certain data for programs to which they are assigned as review team members.
- Assuring longitudinal data regarding candidate and program outcomes to inform program improvement as well as accreditation decisions

First Year implementation

The accreditation strengthening and streaming project envisioned an annual data system that would be efficient and useful for gathering information about particular program characteristics, informing statewide policy discussions, informing accreditation decisions, and useful to institutions in considering programmatic improvements. As a result, the data system was constructed to allow various types of individuals different levels of access to the information. Institutional personnel would have access to their own institutional data, accreditation review teams to data for programs and institutions for which they were assigned to review, and Commission staff would have access to programmatic data and statewide data.

In this first year of implementation, it was necessary to begin the process of identifying who from each institution would be authorized to have access to the institution's data. Various levels of authorization were created and the unit head was asked to identify who from the institution would be designated for each level. Most of this activity occurred late in 2017 and early 2016. Next, institutions were requested to build their "program decks." These program decks serve to

help establish what programs are offered by which institutions, through what kind of delivery model, and other characteristics. For example, an institution may have an intern pathway and two different student teaching pathways, all with slightly different requirements, but all leading to the Preliminary Multiple Subject credential. In this case, there would be three program decks built with data provided for each of these three pathways. This work of establishing program decks continues currently through spring 2018.

Demonstration
Staff will provide a demonstration of the ADS to familiarize COA members with the progress and potential of the system to provide data useful for decision making, and to allow COA members an opportunity to ask questions about the ADS. The types of data that is included for data collection in this first year of implementation will be discussed. COA members will also have the opportunity discuss ways in which the data can be most effectively used to inform the accreditation decisions.

Resources for Further Information
The ADS website includes FAQs relating to how to create an account, establish the institution's program deck and how to enter data into the report. On the Technical Assistance page, upcoming office hour dates and times to address questions regarding the ADS are provided. These office hours can be extended through spring 2018, if necessary.

Next Steps
Staff will continue to work with programs to respond to all questions to ensure that the initial program decks are completed and are reflective of the programs offered in California. Staff will continue to work with COA and stakeholders to identify the types of questions that should be added in the future and on refining the process of how the information collected through the system will be used for accreditation purposes.