

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors February 2020

Overview

This report consists of a recommendation made for the initial approval of a professional preparation program for an institution that recently received Provisional Approval as a new program sponsor in California. Alameda County of Education (ACOE), a local education agency (LEA), received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its [September 2019](#) meeting. ACOE now seeks approval from the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to offer a Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education program.

Staff Recommendation

That after discussion with the program sponsor and after review of the BIR review of the proposed program as well as documentation from the institution submitting the proposal, the COA grant initial accreditation for ACOE's proposed Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education program.

Background

The Commission requires that an institution seeking to offer new educator preparation program(s) must first be approved for initial accreditation as a new program sponsor and must do so by completing the Commission's Initial Institution Approval (IIA) process. At the [December 2015](#) meeting, the Commission approved a new IIA process requiring the satisfactory completion of five approval stages as part of the Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation project – updates to the IIA process were subsequently approved during the [February 2016](#) meeting. A graphic detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the following page.

Initial Institutional Approval

IIA Process	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	IV	V
Action	Prerequisites	Eligibility Requirements	Preconditions & Common Standards	Program Standards	Site Visit
Purpose	Ensures legal eligibility of institution in California Ensures institution understands requirements of Commission's accreditation system	Ensures that institution has capacity to sponsor effective programs	Ensures institution meets all relevant preconditions Ensures institution meets all Common Standards	Ensures all proposed programs meet all relevant program standards	Program operates for 2-3 years and hosts a focused accreditation site visit
Requirements	Institution must: 1. Have legal eligibility 2. Attend Accreditation 101 with institutional team	Submit responses to: • 12 Eligibility Criteria	Submit responses to: • Preconditions • Common Standards	Submit responses to: • Program Standards	Institution must: • Collect data • Host focused site visit
Reviewed By	Staff	Staff	Preconditions: Staff Common Standards: BIR	BIR	Site Visit Team
Authority	Staff	Commission	Commission	COA	Commission
Decision	Determine Eligibility for Stage II	Eligibility: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Provisional Approval: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Program(s): 1. Approve 2. Deny	1. Grant Full approval 2. Retain Provisional Approval with Additional Requirements 3. Deny Approval
IIA Status*	Not Approved	Not Approved	Provisional Approval**	Provisional Approval***	Full Approval

At conclusion of stage **Institutionally-approved but cannot offer programs *May begin offering approved programs*

Alameda County Office of Education

ACOE has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	September 2016 – Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	April 2019 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions and Common Standards	September 2019 – Granted Provisional Approval by the Commission

ACOE’s responses to the Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education program standards were reviewed by a team of Board of Institutional Review members. Reviewers collaborated on the feedback and found all standards to be Met. Below is a summary of ACOE’s responses to the proposed Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education program standards. The following hyperlink provides access to [ACOE’s complete submission and the reviewers’ Report of Findings](#).

Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education (Design, Assessment, and Support)

The Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) proposes to offer an online Career Technical Education (CTE) credentialing program. ACOE’s CTE proposed program would be comprised of nine semester units of coursework focused specifically on supporting candidates in: a) demonstrating proficiency in skills outlined in the CTC’s program standards; b) teaching the California CTE Model Curriculum Standards; and c) fulfilling Teacher Performance Expectations. As described by the proposal, it states:

The program consists of 9 semester units of approved program coursework or 135 hours of approved professional preparation. The orientation is 1 semester unit. The first-time credential holder courses-- CTE 101 Teacher Preparation and CTE 102 Instructional Practice--are each 4 units. The credential course CTE 101 Core, and CTE 104 Advanced Teaching Methods and Strategies are also 4 unit courses.

The coursework consists of assignments that are embedded in practical and useful teaching experiences in the classroom. Candidates curate a portfolio throughout the program that serves both as a form of summative assessment documenting their mastery of skills and content, and, as a useful resource preparing them for future teaching. Candidates receive a mentor to support them with valuable feedback aligned with Teacher Performance Expectations and professional growth. Both the coursework and mentoring components of the program focus on data-driven strategies that promote and support success for candidates and their students.