

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors August 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. University of California (UCM), Merced, an institution of higher education (IHE), received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its [April 2018](#) meeting. Additionally, UCM's Preliminary Multiple Subject/Single Subject credential programs received program approval by the Committee on Accreditation (COA) at its [August 2018](#) meeting. UCM now seeks approval from the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to offer a Bilingual Authorization program in Spanish.

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 to the Bilingual Authorization program in Spanish.

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

University of California, Merced

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

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	April 2017 – Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	December 2017 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	April 2018 – Granted Provisional Approval

The COA granted initial approval to UCM’s Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject program in August 2018. UCM’s responses to the Bilingual Authorization 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 UCM’s responses to the proposed Bilingual Authorization program standards. The following hyperlink provides access to [UCM’s complete submission and the reviewers’ Report of Findings](#).

Institution Summary

The Teacher Preparation Program at the University of California, Merced proposes to offer the California Bilingual Authorization (BILA) to both qualified current credential students and qualified credentialed teacher applicants applying to UC Merced to add to their teaching certification. The program has been developed to meet the growing need for bilingual educators in the Central Valley in consultation with local school district leaders and districts who are developing or expanding their dual language programs. UC Merced’s BILA candidates are required to meet the following requirements: 1) pass the CSET Spanish Subtest III (Exam147); 2) completion of EDUC X310: Bilingual and Bicultural Teaching: Spanish (3 units); and 3) and completion of EDUC X430: Historical and Sociocultural Overview of the Spanish Fluent World (3 units). The BILA demonstrates UC Merced awareness, sensitivity, and responsiveness to diversity in the Central Valley. The Teacher Preparation Program values cultural responsiveness and is committed to meeting the needs of the diverse TK-12 learning community in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California.