

Discussion of the Second Quarterly Report for La Sierra University January 2023

Overview of this Report

This agenda item provides information on the second quarterly report submitted by La Sierra University addressing stipulations resulting from their April 2022 site visit. Following its decision, the Committee on Accreditation (COA) directed La Sierra University to provide updates to staff at quarterly intervals documenting the progress made toward addressing the stipulations in the [April 2022 Accreditation Report](#). Information is included in this report related to how the institution is addressing the requirements of each stipulation.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the COA accept La Sierra University's second quarterly report. Staff will continue to work with the institution to provide technical assistance and plan for the April 2023 revisit.

Background

A site visit was held virtually for La Sierra University on April 24-27, 2022, and the report of that visit was presented to the COA at its June 2022 meeting. Following discussion and deliberation of the report and its recommendations, the COA determined that the institution be granted **Accreditation with Major Stipulations**. The stipulations are listed below.

1. That the institution provide quarterly reports to the Committee on Accreditation on actions taken to address stipulations. Specifically, at the first quarterly report, provide evidence of a clear and consistent tracking process of candidates and completers in the Commission-approved credential programs, including undergraduate candidates and graduate candidates.
2. That the institution not be permitted to propose new credential programs for approval by the Committee on Accreditation until all stipulations have been removed.
3. That within one year, the institution host a re-visit with the team lead and Commission consultant to collect evidence of actions taken to address the stipulations noted below. Additionally, it was recommended that the institution provide:
 4. Evidence of a research-based vision of teaching and learning that fosters coherence among, and is clearly represented, in all educator preparation programs and that the vision is consistent with preparing educators for California public schools and the effective implementation of California's adopted standards and curricular frameworks.
 5. Evidence of a process that ensures only qualified persons are assigned and retained to teach courses and supervise field-based and clinical experiences.
 6. Evidence of how the unit consistently monitors or evaluates the credential recommendation process.
 7. Evidence that all Commission-approved programs effectively evaluate fieldwork and clinical practice.

8. Evidence of the support, advice, and assistance provided to candidates and completers to promote successful entry and retention in the profession.
9. Evidence that progress in meeting competency and performance expectations is consistently used to guide assessment and candidate support efforts and that a clearly defined process is in place to identify and support candidates who need additional assistance to meet competencies.
10. Evidence of the development and implementation of a comprehensive continuous improvement process, at both the unit level and within each of the programs, that identifies program and unit effectiveness and makes appropriate modifications on its findings.
11. Evidence that the education unit and its programs regularly assess their effectiveness in relation to the course of study, fieldwork and clinical practice, and support services for candidates.
12. Evidence that the education unit and its programs regularly and systematically collects, analyzes, and uses candidate and program completer data as well as data reflecting the effectiveness of unit operations to improve programs and their services.
13. Evidence that the continuous improvement process includes multiple sources of data including 1) the extent to which candidates are prepared to enter professional practice; and 2) feedback from key constituencies such as employers and community partners about the quality of the preparation.
14. Evidence that the Preliminary Multiple Subject and Preliminary Single Subject programs provide assistance throughout the program to support candidates in the TPA including the provision of multiple formative opportunities for candidates to prepare for the TPA tasks/activities.
15. Evidence that the education unit maintains program level TPA data, including but not limited to aggregate results of candidate performance over time.
16. Evidence that candidates in the Pupil Personnel Services: School Counseling program are provided with knowledge and understanding of history, philosophy, and trends in school counseling.

*Note this standard will be addressed in 2019 Pupil Personnel Services: School Counseling Program Standards and Performance Expectations SCPE 1.2 as the program transitions to the 2019 standards beginning fall 2022.

Second Quarterly Report Contents

Following the April 2022 site visit, La Sierra University program staff and administration met to discuss the stipulations and subsequently provided the first quarterly report in October 2022. The second report contains additional actions taken in addressing each of the stipulations since the first report. The second quarterly report from La Sierra University was received on January 4, 2023 and is available here: [La Sierra University Second Quarterly Report to Address Stipulations](#). The linked report includes the institution's response to actions taken with links to evidence that support the actions by La Sierra University. A summary of the report can be found below.

Stipulation 1: *That the institution provide quarterly reports to the Committee on Accreditation on actions taken to address stipulations. Specifically, at the first quarterly report, provide evidence of a clear and consistent tracking process of candidates and completers in the Commission-approved credential programs, including undergraduate candidates and graduate candidates.*

The first quarterly report included the information specifically requested for that report. La Sierra University submitted its second quarterly report on January 4, 2023. The report includes the actions taken by La Sierra University to address each stipulation.

Stipulation 2: *That the institution not be permitted to propose new credential programs for approval by the Committee on Accreditation until all stipulations have been removed.*

La Sierra University understands this stipulation and will not propose new programs until all stipulations have been removed.

Stipulation 3: *That within one year, the institution host a re-visit with the team lead and Commission consultant to collect evidence of actions taken to address the stipulations noted below.*

La Sierra University will host a revisit April 17-18, 2023.

Stipulation 4: *Evidence of a research-based vision of teaching and learning that fosters coherence among, and is clearly represented, in all educator preparation programs and that the vision is consistent with preparing educators for California public schools and the effective implementation of California's adopted standards and curricular frameworks.*

La Sierra University's new vision statement is included in the linked report. Staff is working with La Sierra University to ensure that for the site revisit, the evidence includes the research base for the vision and how it is consistent with preparing educators for California public schools and the effective implementation of California's adopted standards and curricular frameworks.

Stipulation 5: *Evidence of a process that ensures only qualified persons are assigned and retained to teach courses and supervise field-based and clinical experiences.*

The report includes a process in which the dean's office reviews faculty degrees and credentials each quarter. In preparation for the site revisit, staff is working with La Sierra University to provide evidence that includes the job description for all positions that teach courses and supervise field-based and clinical experiences. Staff will continue to work with the institution to ensure that an evidenced process is in place to ensure that only qualified persons are assigned and retained to teach courses and supervise field-based and clinical experiences.

Stipulation 6: *Evidence of how the unit consistently monitors or evaluates the credential recommendation process.*

The report includes a multi-step process for candidate tracking from application and admission through the recommendation for the credential to ensure that only candidates who meet all requirements are recommended. Staff will continue to work with the institution to ensure there is evidence that the unit consistently monitors the credential recommendation process.

Stipulation 7: *Evidence that all Commission-approved programs effectively evaluate fieldwork and clinical practice.*

The first report included blank evaluations for evaluating fieldwork in each program. The evaluations include candidate self-evaluation, site supervisor evaluation of candidate, and candidate evaluation of site supervisor and university supervisor. The second report includes completed evaluations and a Fieldwork Assessment Report for the evaluations. Staff will continue to work with La Sierra University to provide evidence showing how the Fieldwork Assessment Report is used.

Stipulation 8: *Evidence of the support, advice, and assistance provided to candidates and completers to promote successful entry and retention in the profession.*

Through the newly created Office of Student Support Services and Records, candidate tracking has been updated since the April 2022 visit. Candidate tracking includes regularly contacting candidates, updating candidate academic files, and reporting to the department about candidates not making adequate progress. In addition, faculty advisors are available for individual advisement and to discuss academic progress and plans. The Office of Assessment and Data collects advisement data regarding candidate progress, the data are then shared with the institution's CTC Committee for Implementation and Improvement.

Stipulation 9: *Evidence that progress in meeting competency and performance expectations is consistently used to guide assessment and candidate support efforts and that a clearly defined process is in place to identify and support candidates who need additional assistance to meet competencies.*

Updated candidate tracking has allowed the School of Education to review candidate data on an individual basis. This allows the School of Education to identify candidates who are not making progress toward meeting competency requirements and offer interventions. A clear process to identify and support candidates who need additional assistance to meet competencies is provided in the School of Education Intervention Process and is included in the report.

Stipulation 10: *Evidence of the development and implementation of a comprehensive continuous improvement process, at both the unit level and within each of the programs, that identifies program and unit effectiveness and makes appropriate modifications on its findings.*

The School of Education created a new School of Education CTC Committee for Implementation and Improvement to create policies, make decisions, and oversee the institution's operations concerning the credential programs. The report includes the data the committee reviewed and acted on. Staff will continue to work with the institution to ensure that additional evidence is provided to show a unit assessment system; a list of annotated data sources in the assessment cycle; and a multi-year assessment cycle schedule specifying the unit assessment activities, when they occur, and who is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and determining modifications.

Stipulation 11: *Evidence that the education unit and its programs regularly assess their effectiveness in relation to the course of study, fieldwork and clinical practice, and support services for candidates.*

The report includes data collected that was shared with various constituents. Additional data sources were recently collected and are being reviewed for any action. Staff will continue to work with the institution on a regular assessment system in conjunction with the next steps as described above in Stipulation 10.

Stipulation 12: *Evidence that the education unit and its programs regularly and systematically collect, analyzes, and uses candidate and program completer data as well as data reflecting the effectiveness of unit operations to improve programs and their services.*

The unit plan includes creating a Graduate Database and collecting data through graduate/completer exit surveys, year-out graduate surveys, a job placement data questionnaire, and keeping in touch with program completers. The report includes data collected and reviewed. Staff will continue to work with the institution on a regular assessment system in conjunction with the next steps as described above in Stipulations 10.

Stipulation 13: *Evidence that the continuous improvement process includes multiple sources of data including 1) the extent to which candidates are prepared to enter professional practice; and 2) feedback from key constituencies such as employers and community partners about the quality of the preparation.*

The report outlines multiple sources of data to assess the extent to which candidates are prepared to enter professional practice. The report includes data collected and reviewed; however, feedback from key constituents such as employers and community partners is not included. Staff will continue to work with the institution to include feedback from key constituents and on a regular assessment system in conjunction with the next steps as described above in Stipulations 10.

Stipulation 14: *Evidence that the Preliminary Multiple Subject and Preliminary Single Subject programs provide assistance throughout the program to support candidates in the TPA including the provision of multiple formative opportunities for candidates to prepare for the TPA tasks/activities.*

The CalTPA Ongoing Formative Assessment (CalTPA-OFA) program was developed and implemented in the fall of 2022. Multiple and single subject candidates complete two practice rubrics in each course leading up to student teaching with the CalTPA being completed during student teaching. Candidate submissions through the CalTPA-OFA for fall 2022 have been submitted and are currently under review by the program director and a faculty member. Staff will continue to work with the institution to provide evidence that show how this program supports candidates in preparing for the TPA tasks/activities.

Stipulation 15: *Evidence that the education unit maintains program level TPA data, including but not limited to aggregate results of candidate performance over time.*

The record of the attempts, successes, and failures of the TPA trials in each required course will be kept on a Google spreadsheet. This will occur each quarter for each candidate. This will provide information as candidates progress through their coursework. The report includes a blank quarterly report for reporting CalTPA candidate data. Staff will continue to work with the institution to provide evidence of program level TPA data.

Stipulation 16: *Evidence that candidates in the Pupil Personnel Services: School Counseling program are provided with knowledge and understanding of history, philosophy, and trends in school counseling.*

**Note this standard will be addressed in 2019 Pupil Personnel Services: School Counseling Program Standards and Performance Expectations SCPE 1.2 as the program transitions to the 2019 standards beginning fall 2022.*

This stipulation was addressed in the first quarterly report and removed by the COA at the October 2022 meeting.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to monitor La Sierra University's progress in addressing stipulations and prepare for the site revisit. La Sierra University will prepare a third quarter report that will be made available to inform the site revisit. After the site revisit, Commission staff and the revisit team lead will prepare and present a site revisit report which will include the revisit finding on each stipulation and an updated accreditation recommendation.