

Actions Taken to Address Stipulations from California State University, Fresno June 2023

Overview of this Report

This report provides information on the information submitted by California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) addressing the stipulation specific to their Preliminary Education Specialist: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) credential program which resulted from their April 2022 accreditation site visit. Fresno State submitted both the [DHH Actions in Response to Stipulations Report](#) and [DHH Standards Alignment with current Teaching Performance Expectations \(TPEs\) Document](#) in response to the stipulation. These documents note the institution's actions taken to address the stipulation with links to supporting evidence. A summary of Fresno State's responses to this stipulation, as provided in their documents, can be found on subsequent pages of this report.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Committee on Accreditation (COA) remove Stipulation 3. Staff also recommends that COA take action to change Fresno State's accreditation status from **Accreditation with Stipulations** to **Accreditation**.

Background

Fresno State's Accreditation Site Visit took place April 3 – 6, 2022. [Fresno State's Accreditation Site Visit Report](#) was presented to the COA at its May 2022 meeting. At that meeting, the COA took action to grant an accreditation status of **Accreditation with Stipulations** for Fresno State. The stipulations as they were approved by the COA include the following:

That within one year, the institution provide evidence demonstrating that it has addressed the issues identified by the site visit team as it relates to the following standards that were determined to be less than fully met:

- 1) Common Standard 1 relating to resource issues that impact advising and workload.
- 2) Common Standard 4 demonstrating that it has fully implemented its framework for a unit-wide continuous improvement plan.
- 3) Preliminary Education Specialist: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing credential specialty area program standards 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11.
- 4) Reading and Literacy Added Authorization and Reading and Leadership Specialist credential program standards 1, 6, 9, and 10.

At the [May 2023 COA meeting](#), the COA took action to remove Stipulations 1, 2, and 4 with Stipulation 3 to be considered within a year. At the May 2023 COA meeting, staff had explained that Fresno State personnel had been responsive to the stipulation for the DHH program, but that the review process to ensure that all aspects of the stipulation have been addressed required specialized expertise, as there is a limited pool of individuals in the state with that expertise. Additionally, the fact that the accreditation site visit took place under the previous

Education Specialist DHH standards but that the stipulation needed to take into consideration the current standards, made both the submission and review process more complex. As a result, staff had indicated that more time would be needed to complete the review of the documentation and additional discussions with the program personnel would be likely.

Since the May 2023 meeting, staff has continued the review process, has held discussions with the expert reviewer about remaining issues, and then held further meetings with the program to clarify various aspects of their submission. As a result of these efforts, staff is now recommending removal of Stipulation 3. Below is a summary of the actions taken to address the stipulation related to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at Fresno State University.

Summary of Fresno State's DHH Stipulation Documentation: Actions to Address Stipulation #3 since May 2022

Stipulation #3:

That within one year, the institution provide evidence demonstrating that it has addressed the issues identified by the site visit team as it relates to the following standards that were determined to be less than fully met: Preliminary Education Specialist: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing credential specialty area program standards 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11.

Fresno State's DHH program leadership and accreditation leadership have met regularly after the accreditation site visit, including with Commission staff, in the efforts to address this stipulation. These efforts included the mapping of the eight DHH Program Standards, noted in the stipulation above, against the current DHH Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs). Given the transition to the new Education Specialist standards and TPEs that was required of all Education Specialist educator preparation programs by July 1, 2022, and the work the Fresno State DHH program leadership had undertaken to align the program to the new standards, refocusing the stipulation on the current standards and TPEs was deemed appropriate.

Although there were 8 standards that were less than fully met, the main themes that emerged from this alignment to the TPEs were:

- The program's preparation of candidates to work with and assess birth to age three populations including students who are deafblind or have additional disabilities.
- Candidates being able to communicate proficiently in American Sign Language (ASL) to address the specific needs of student learning.
- The program providing instruction and opportunities to demonstrate preparing effective transition plans and the ability to work collaboratively with families and colleagues.
- The ability to use relevant auditory technological devices, as needed, to support a student's learning.

Fresno State's DHH program leadership addressed these themes through meetings with Commission staff and through evidence of candidate coursework and course readings that were provided in their documentation. This documentation was reviewed by a DHH expert in the field along with Commission staff. The external reviewer provided feedback and identified issues remaining that needed further clarity and the Commission staff met with DHH program leadership to ensure that actions taken were clear and addressed all the standards less than fully met.

At this time, the issues identified by the team in standards listed above have been addressed. The institution's actions are summarized in the table provided in the link above.

Recommended Action

Commission staff recommends removal of this stipulation.