

# Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors Stage IV of the Initial Institutional Approval Process January 2024

## Overview

This report consists of a recommendation for the Initial Program Approval of an educator preparation program which will be offered by Mills College at Northeastern University (MC:NU).

MC:NU is an institution of higher education currently in the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process which was granted Provisional Approval as a new program sponsor in California at the Commission's [June 2023](#) meeting. For context, Mills College, which offered educator preparation programs in California for decades, closed recently. Northeastern University has assumed many of the academic programs and the facilities of the Oakland, California campus and seeks to offer educator preparation in California. MC:NU, as part of Stage IV of the IIA process, now seeks Initial Program Approval from the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to offer a Preliminary Multiple Subject program and a Preliminary Single Subject program. It bears noting that the proposed Preliminary Multiple Subject and Single Subject programs under consideration in this item have demonstrated alignment to the new literacy standard.

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that after discussion with the program sponsor, review of the Board of Institutional Review (BIR) team members' feedback, and review of the Stage IV documentation, the COA grant Initial Program Approval to MC:NU's proposed multiple and single subject programs. Should the COA approve the programs, the programs may begin operating, and in accordance with Commission action to grant the institution Provisional Approval at the conclusion of IIA Stage III, a provisional site visit will be scheduled in three years from the date of COA approval.

## Background

The Commission requires that an institution seeking to offer new educator preparation program(s) must first be approved as a new program sponsor and must do so by satisfactorily completing all five stages of the Commission's IIA process. A chart detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided at the end of this agenda item.

## Mills College at Northeastern University

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

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	March 2022 – Attended Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility	<a href="#">February 2023</a> – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Provisional Approval	<a href="#">June 2023</a> – Granted Provisional Approval



educational initiatives, set to significantly influence the field of education through their focus on liberation, justice, and joy.

### Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

Mills College at Northeastern University is seeking initial program approval as indicated in the Stage IV column of the chart below.

IIA Process	Stage I - Prerequisites	Stage II – Eligibility Requirements	Stage III – Provisional Approval	Stage IV – Initial Program Approval	Stage V – Provisional Site Visit and Full Approval
<b>Purpose</b>	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 Common Standards	Ensures all proposed programs meet all relevant program standards and program-specific preconditions	Program operates for 2-4 years and hosts a provisional accreditation site visit
<b>Institutional Requirements</b>	Must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have legal eligibility</li> <li>• Attend Accreditation 101 with institutional team</li> </ul>	Submit responses to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Eligibility Criteria</li> <li>• Initial Program Preconditions</li> <li>• General Precondition #9</li> </ul>	Submit responses to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Standards</li> </ul>	Submit responses to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program-Specific Preconditions</li> <li>• Program Standards</li> </ul>	Must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect data</li> <li>• Host provisional site visit</li> </ul>
<b>Reviewed By</b>	Staff	Staff	BIR	<b>Preconditions:</b> Staff <b>Program Standards:</b> BIR	Site Visit Team & COA
<b>Authority</b>	Staff	Commission	Commission	COA	Commission
<b>Decision</b>	Determine Eligibility for Stage II	Eligibility: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant</li> <li>2. Deny</li> </ol>	Provisional Approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant</li> <li>2. Deny</li> </ol>	Program(s): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve</li> <li>2. Deny</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant Full Approval</li> <li>2. Grant Full Approval &amp; Remand to COA to Address Stipulations</li> <li>3. Continue Provisional Status for 1 Year to Address Stipulations</li> <li>4. Deny Approval</li> </ol>
<b>IIA Status*</b>	Not Approved	Not Approved	Provisional Approval**	Provisional Approval***	Full Approval

\*At conclusion of stage

\*\*Institutionally approved but cannot offer programs

\*\*\*May begin offering approved program