

Attachment

Report of Dominican University of California's Responses to Preconditions found to be Not in Compliance during its Accreditation Site Visit

Overview

This item provides information to the COA regarding Dominican University of California's (Dominican's) responses to the Intern Precondition found to be not in compliance during its accreditation site visit. Dominican University is an institution of higher education that offers a Preliminary Multiple/Subject program and a Preliminary Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs program and these programs each include an intern pathway.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the COA reviews Dominican's responses to the Preconditions. Dominican has appeared to put processes in place, staff is looking for verification of implementation and will bring an item back in June for removal of this stipulation.

Background

Dominican held its accreditation site visit March 17 – 20, 2024. Interviews with constituencies and documentation confirmed that Intern Precondition #5a was not met.

Pursuant to the Commission's Accreditation Framework, institutions, and the programs they sponsor must be in compliance with preconditions at all times. If an institution and/or any of its programs is determined to be out of compliance with one or more preconditions, the institution is notified and given 30 days from the date of notification to rectify the matter.

Dominican was notified on March 20, 2024 - the final date of the site visit – of the unmet status of Intern Precondition 5. Within one month of the conclusion of the site visit, Dominican submitted an initial response to the Preconditions on April 19, 2024, which was reviewed by staff. That response is linked here: [Dominican's Preconditions Response](#). The following page summarizes the Precondition findings detailed in the accreditation report and Dominican's response to the unmet Precondition.

Next Steps

Commission staff will continue to work with Dominican and will take next steps as determined by COA action.

Dominican's Response to Unmet Precondition

Intern Precondition #5: Supervision of Interns:

- a. In all internship programs, the participating institutions in partnership with employing districts shall provide 144 hours of support and supervision annually and 45 hours of support and supervision specific to teaching English learners pursuant to California Code of Regulations §80033.*

Note: This Precondition is the same regardless of whether the program is a Preliminary Multiple/Subject program or a Preliminary Education Specialist program.

Finding: As stated in the accreditation site visit report: Intern Precondition 5(a) is not met. Given the finding that intern candidates are not consistently matched by the institution with a district-employed supervisor, there was not clear evidence that the hours of annual support required to be provided by the institution in partnership with employing districts are being provided. Additionally, the tracking sheets provided were those monitored by a separate entity rather than being monitored by the Department of Education at Dominican.

Dominican's response: Dominican has historically had very few intern candidates (none, one, or two per academic year). With the closure of Holy Names University, four intern candidates were subsumed into Dominican for a total of five in the 2023-24 academic year. Intern candidates that are native to Dominican would previously have had their 144 hours of support and supervision and 45 hours of support and supervision specific to teaching English learners tracked by the North Coast School of Education. Dominican has now created their own tracking templates to be completed by intern candidates to track support hours. The logging of these support hours was a new process for intern candidates. Screenshots or live tracking documents for each of the five interns were not available at the time of the writing of this item.

Four current Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were provided. These MOUs are with Alameda Unified School District, Marin County Office of Education, Oakland Unified School District, and West Contra Costa Unified School District. These MOUs contained the language related to the 144 hours and 45 hours of English learner support and supervision as required by the Precondition. An MOU template was also provided. Some of the MOUs have been updated to reflect the new template while some are in the process of being updated. An updated MOU with Piedmont Unified School District was being routed to the district for their approval. The renewal of the MOU with North Coast School of Education is in progress.

The Intern Contact Log Receipt Form – a form that interns would complete acknowledging they understand the hours of support required, how to log the hours, and who to contact in case they are not receiving this support – was provided as evidence. Interns will also be required to complete an Internship Pathway Agreement Form prior to applying for an intern credential. School site administrators will be required to complete a Support Provider Information Form. The final evidence provided was updates to the student handbook, so intern candidates have access to both information about the intern pathway and to the forms noted previously.