PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: September 23, 2015   Number: 15-05

Subject: Update on the Implementation of the Strengthened and Streamlined
Accreditation System – Transition of Institutions to New Accreditation System

Summary This Program Sponsor Alert is intended to update program sponsors regarding the transition to the newly strengthened and streamlined accreditation system. It is the first in what will be a series of alerts regarding the requirements for institutions to fully transition to the new accreditation system by 2017-18.

Background The Commission began work on redesigning the accreditation system in 2014 with the formation of, and input from, six task groups. The task groups were assigned to one of the following topics: Multiple/Single Subject Preliminary Program Standards; Induction Standards, Policies and Regulations; Public Access and Data Warehouse; Accreditation Processes and Procedures; Outcomes and Survey Data; and Performance Assessments. An overview of the work was presented at the June Commission meeting http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-06/2015-06-5B.pdf.

At the August 2015 meeting, the Commission approved a plan for transition to the new accreditation system. The agenda item can be found at http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-08/2015-08-3D.pdf. This transition plan was developed with the understanding that at this time, all the details of each component of the new accreditation are not yet finalized and that additional aspects of the accreditation policy work will need to be presented and approved by the Commission in the coming months. However, it was important for the Commission to adopt a transition plan in order to ensure the smooth phase out of the current system and to bring all Commission approved institutions in alignment with the new system as quickly and efficiently as possible. This plan provides time

for both the further development of the additional work necessary and extensive technical assistance so that all institutions are transitioned to the new accreditation system by 2017-18.

The plan focuses on significant technical assistance to assist program sponsors in revising their programs (multiple subject, single subject, and induction), revising Common Standards, and in meeting the requirements of the revised accreditation cycle, including new procedures and requirements related to data once the data warehouse is developed. To ensure adequate time for these revisions and preparation, a "development and transition year" has been inserted into the current cycle during 2016-17. Transition activities will take the place of current accreditation activities during that year and future Program Sponsor Alerts will provide greater detail on these specific activities.

The majority of activities in 2015-16 will remain the same, however to provide for the transition, several cohorts will be asked to also submit updated preconditions (PSA to follow) beginning in the spring 2016. Additionally, in 2016-17, all institutions will be required to respond to survey data. An upcoming PSA will provide further information regarding expectations for survey data responses. So that all institutions can adequately prepare for both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, and understand what will be expected in the first year (2017-18) of the new cycle, a summary of activities due to the Commission is provided in the Appendix.

Upcoming Information Relating Only to Transition to New Accreditation System
This alert is an overview and staff understands that more information will be needed so that all institutions will be adequately prepared to move into the new system by 2017-18. Every effort will be made to keep stakeholders apprised of new developments and Commission action.

Please look for Program Sponsor Alerts on the following topics over the next six months.
- Preconditions
- Program Document Review
- Revised Common Standards
- Survey Data
- Annual Data Analysis
- Technical Assistance Opportunities
- Revised Program Standards (General Education and Induction)

Additionally, information will be forthcoming from Cohort Consultants, in the PSD E-news, within Commission Agenda items, and through technical assistance events.

Resources

- Revised Accreditation Activities were approved at the June 2015 Commission Meeting
  http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-06/2015-06-5C.pdf

- Program Document Review was approved at August 2015 Commission Meeting
  http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-08/2015-08-3C.pdf

Contact Information

The Professional Services Division provides a full list of topic- and program- specific dedicated email addresses at: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PSD-contact.html.

Appendix

Summary of Accreditation Activities due to the Commission by Cohort

Cohort	2015-16 (Current Accreditation Cycle)	2016-17* (Transition & Development)		2017-18 (New Accreditation System)
Blue	• Biennial Report • Preconditions • Common Standards • Complete Program Assessment Revisions • Site Visit	• Year Seven Follow Up Activities as a result of site visit • Respond to Survey Data • Participate in Technical Assistance		• Annual Data Analysis
Green	• Preconditions • Program Assessment Revisions if needed	• Complete Program Assessment Revisions • Common Standards Response • Respond to Survey Data • Participate in Technical Assistance	New System Begins	• Annual Data Analysis • Site Visit
Yellow		• Respond to Survey Data • Preconditions Fall 2016 • Participate in Technical Assistance		• Annual Data Analysis • Program Document Review • Common Standards Response
Orange	• Biennial Report	• Respond to Survey Data • Participate in Technical Assistance		• Annual Data Analysis • Preconditions
Red		• Respond to Survey Data • Participate in Technical Assistance		• Annual Data Analysis
Violet	• Preconditions (Spring/Fall 2016)	• Respond to Survey Data • Participate in Technical Assistance		• Annual Data Analysis
Indigo	• Year Seven Follow Up Activities	• Respond to Survey Data • Participate in Technical Assistance		• Annual Data Analysis • Preconditions

All programs must continue to be aligned with all Common and Program Standards at all times. This includes the expectation that programs are collecting and analyzing candidate competency and program effectiveness data for program improvement and in preparation for use of these data in the new accreditation system.