



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: March 29, 2016

Number: 16-05

Subject: Commission Adoption of *Accreditation Framework* and Revised Language for Common Standard 3

Summary

At the February 2016 meeting, the Commission took action to adopt the newly revised *Accreditation Framework*. In addition, the Commission also adopted a revision to Common Standard 3 to align with language in the Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standards. Both actions are part of the Commission's comprehensive effort to strengthen and streamline the current accreditation system.

Background

Education Code section 44371(a)(5) specifies that the Commission's accreditation system is governed by an *Accreditation Framework* that sets forth the policies of the Commission regarding the accreditation of educator preparation programs. The initial *Accreditation Framework* was adopted in 1995 and updated in 2007 alongside the last major revision of the accreditation system. Since 2014, the Commission has been working to strengthen and streamline the current accreditation system. It is therefore necessary to revise the *Accreditation Framework* to reflect the changes in policy and process developed by the Commission over the course of the past year.

Changes to the accreditation system are comprehensive in nature and involve the examination of preliminary teaching standards and induction standards, the development of new performance assessments, the development and implementation of new survey instruments, the

development of a data warehouse, and new efforts to ensure greater transparency. Much of the policy work in the past year has moved from consideration to adoption by the Commission. For example, at the June 2015 meeting, the Commission approved a plan to revise the activities of the 7-year accreditation cycle <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-06/2015-06-5C.pdf>. Changes in the program standards review process that occur during the new 7-year accreditation cycle were approved at the August 2015 meeting <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-08/2015-08-3C.pdf>. The Commission also took action to approve the newly revised Initial Institutional Approval process at the October 2015 meeting <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-10/2015-10-2D.pdf>.

Adopted Revisions to Accreditation Framework

To reflect these recent policy decisions, Commission staff has been reviewing and modifying language in the *Accreditation Framework* to align with the changes in the accreditation system. Draft updates to the *Accreditation Framework* were presented to the Commission at the December 2015 meeting (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-12/2015-12-2D.pdf>). The *Accreditation Framework* is posted on the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) website at: (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/accred-files/accred-framework-2016-02.pdf>).

The new *Accreditation Framework* does not apply to institutions undergoing a site visit in the current academic year. In addition, the Commission plans to provide considerable technical assistance in 2016-17 in order to prepare for the launch of the new accreditation system in 2017-18.

Adopted Revision to Common Standard 3

Revised Common Standards were adopted by the Commission in October 2015 (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/STDS-common.html>). At the February 2016 meeting, the Commission approved a revision to Common Standard 3 to align with the adopted language in the Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standards (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2016-02/2016-02-1C.pdf>). Specifically, the Commission removed the language “California public schools with diverse student populations” and replaced it with “a diverse school setting where the curriculum aligns with California’s adopted content standards and frameworks and the school reflects the diversity of California’s student population.” This revision aligns with action taken by the Commission at the December 2015 meeting (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-12/2015-12-2A.pdf>). The 2015 Common Standards may be found at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/STDS-common.html>

References

Adoption of *Accreditation Framework* at the February 2016 Commission meeting <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2016-02/2016-02-3B.pdf>

Commission Action Item, December 2015 <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-12/2015-12-2A.pdf>

Commission Action Item, February 2016 <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2016-02/2016-02-1C.pdf>

Common Standards (2015) <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/STDS-common.html>

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 A: Draft updates presented at the December 2015 Commission meeting

Accreditation Framework Section	Summary of Proposed Revisions
Section 1: Authority and Responsibilities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	Most of the language in this section is grounded in statute. Therefore, only minor changes are proposed in this section to reflect changes in California Education Code related to the Commission’s responsibly with respect to accreditation fees.
Section 2: Functions of the Committee on Accreditation	Most of the language in this section is grounded in statute. No proposed changes.
Section 3: Accreditation Preconditions and Standards	Revisions are proposed to language related to the submission and review of Preconditions, Common Standards and Program Standards. These proposed changes reflect the streamlined document review process approved by the Commission at its August 2015 Commission meeting and the overall general direction provided by the Commission to reduce the focus on lengthy documentation. For more information on Commission action, see: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-08/2015-08-3C.pdf .
Section 4: Initial Accreditation Policies	Proposed revisions would significantly modify the language to reflect policy adopted by the Commission at its October 2015 meeting. These include substantial changes to the processes and requirements for institutions seeking to become sponsors of new educator preparation programs. For more information on Commission action see: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-10/2015-10-2D.pdf .
Section 5: Continuing Accreditation Policies	Considerable revisions are proposed to reflect the revised activities of the 7-year accreditation cycle. These changes to the cycle have been presented at previous Commission agenda meetings.
Section 6: Board of Institutional Reviewers	Revisions are proposed to reflect modified Board of Institutional Reviewer training and responsibilities.
Section 7: Articulation Between National and State Accreditation	Minimal changes are proposed.
Section 8: Evaluation and Modification of the Framework	This section largely reflects what is currently in statute. No proposed changes.

Appendix B: Draft updates presented at the February 2016 Commission meeting

Commission Recommendations	Proposed Edits
<p>That consideration be given to the decision to rename <i>Program Assessment</i> to <i>Program Document Review</i> in order to emphasize that the program is being reviewed and documentation requirements have been updated as a result of streamlining and strengthening the accreditation process.</p>	<p>The title has been changed to <i>Program Review</i>, thus underscoring the changes to the process itself and not just to the documentation.</p>
<p>That there be more information included within the <i>Framework</i> about the recent updates to the accreditation process specifically the outcomes data that will be submitted to the Commission.</p>	<p>Staff included more specific information about the design of the updated accreditation system and the conceptual framework underlying the revised system within the introduction to the <i>Framework</i>.</p>
<p>That the objective of “assessing the quality of program” receive more emphasis within the document.</p>	<p>This concept is included in the introduction to the <i>Framework</i>.</p>