



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: December 15, 2016

Number: 16-14

Subject: 2016 General Preconditions and Revised Website

Summary

At the September 2016 Commission meeting revisions to the General Preconditions were approved as part of the effort to strengthen and streamline the Commission's accreditation system. All approved program sponsors in California must be aligned to the General Preconditions at all times. Documentation will be required to demonstrate alignment in Years One and Four of the newly revised accreditation cycle. This PSA provides information about the revisions made to the General Preconditions. The updated version can be found on the [Preconditions page](#) of Commission's website.

Background

Preconditions are grounded in either California state statute, regulations, or adopted Commission policy and specify requirements of program compliance. In the past there have been three categories of preconditions: 1) General Preconditions – the ten General Preconditions that were applicable to all Commission approved program sponsors and educator preparation programs; 2) Program Specific Preconditions – four preconditions that applied to most types of credential programs; and 3) Program Preconditions – preconditions associated with a specific credential type (Multiple/Single Subject, General Education Induction, for examples) and apply to only those programs.

Commission staff reviewed the General Preconditions, as well as the four Program Specific Preconditions with several intended objectives. First, a review of the General Preconditions had not been done for a number of years, and the strengthening and streamlining accreditation project provided an ideal opportunity to examine and update any expectations that the Commission would have for all institutions offering educator preparation in California. Second,

having three distinct categories of preconditions was confusing and in need of simplification to make the structure more understandable for current and prospective program sponsors, and for the public. Finally, revisions to the General Preconditions were prompted by the Commission's approval of a new Initial Institutional approval process (see October 2015 Commission Meeting [Agenda Item 2D](#)). As a result of these efforts, some preconditions were updated to reflect new realities and expectations while others were added and, where appropriate, align with the new Eligibility Requirements for institutions seeking initial institutional approval.

Submission of General Preconditions

Each institution (college, university, school district, county office of education, or other approved sponsor) must meet the Commission's preconditions in order to demonstrate institutional compliance with state statute, regulations, and Commission policies. The revised General Preconditions and the preconditions specific to the programs an institution is approved to offer, must be submitted for review:

- 1) at the time of Initial Institutional Approval; and
- 2) during Years One and Four of the revised accreditation system's seven year cycle.

Information about when preconditions should be submitted to the Commission is provided in the cohort map for each color cohort found on the [Accreditation Activities webpage](#). Please contact your accreditation cohort consultant if you have questions about submitting preconditions. Contact information is available on the [Commission's website](#). Staff is responsible for reviewing documentation submitted by an institution and determining whether it has satisfactorily addressed all applicable preconditions.

The Commission has recently revised its [Preconditions webpage](#) to make it easier for a program sponsor to find each set of preconditions applicable for its institution and the particular preparation programs offered at that institution.

Resources

September 2016 Commission Agenda Item *Proposed Modifications of the Commission's General Preconditions for Educator Preparation Programs*

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2016-09/2016-09-3B.pdf>

Contact Information

If you have questions about the revised General Preconditions, please contact accreditation@ctc.ca.gov or your institution's color cohort consultant (PSDGreen@ctc.ca.gov; PSDIndigo@ctc.ca.gov, etc.).