



Program Sponsor Alert

Date: December 16, 2016

Number: 16-15

Subject: Bachelor's Degree Requirement for a California Credential

Summary

An individual must hold a bachelor's degree, in a field other than education from a regionally accredited institution to be eligible for a California teaching or services credential. Further, Commission-approved programs are responsible for ensuring that only individuals who hold degrees in a field other than education from regionally accredited colleges or universities are accepted into educator preparation programs.

Background

California Education Code requires an individual to hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university for most teaching or services credentials in California, or to have earned a verified equivalent degree from a college or university outside of the United States. Despite this requirement, a number of situations have been identified recently where individuals were admitted into a teacher preparation program, had begun coursework, and were later found to have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution that was not regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned. In most cases, the institution earned regional accreditation after the candidate completed his or her bachelor's degree program.

It is not appropriate for an institution to accept a candidate into an educator preparation program who does not hold a degree from a regionally accredited institution, or from a person not holding a verified equivalent degree from a college or university outside of the United States, because the candidate will not be eligible for the California credential. Each Commission-approved educator preparation program must consult the web page of the regional accreditor identified by the [Council for Higher Accreditation](#) (CHEA) to confirm that the institution held regional accreditation **when the candidate earned the degree.**

In addition to the candidate earning a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, or a verified equivalent degree from a college or university outside of the United States, the degree itself cannot be in education. It is important that to comply with Education Code Section 44259, that the educator preparation program must verify that the candidate has earned a bachelor's degree in an academic field other than education.

When programs accept candidates who do not hold a degree from a regionally accredited institution or an equivalent degree from an institution outside of the United States, the program is not meeting the Commission's [Preconditions](#). Each Commission-approved institution that sponsors educator preparation programs must meet the Commission's Preconditions at all times and the Committee on Accreditation is very committed to ensuring that this occurs. Accepting candidates who have not earned a degree at a regionally accredited college or university could put the educator preparation program's institutional accreditation status at risk.

References

Education Code § 44259 (b) (1)

Council for Higher Education Accreditation: <http://www.chea.org/Directories/regional.asp>
[Preconditions](#) for Educator Preparation programs in California

Requirements for Individuals Prepared Outside of the United States

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl871.pdf>
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl870.pdf>

Foreign Transcript Evaluation

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl635.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>.