

Policy Changes: Accreditation for Advanced Programs

Policy Change #1:

Policy 2.2: An EPP completes a self-study report to make the case through narrative and related evidence that it meets the CAEP standards for educator preparation **at both the initial and advanced level.**

Rationale: CAEP will require a single self-study report for each EPP that includes both initial and advanced level programs. Having a single self-study report reduces the burden on EPPs since many of the contextual factors are constant for both levels. In addition, one self-study report reduces redundancy and the size of the site visit team, which results in cost saving to the EPP.

Policy Change #2:

Policy 2.2: EPPs completing a self-study report should submit the self-study report in CAEP's Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS) **9-12** months in advance of the site visit.

Rationale: The proposed policy places all pathways on the same timeline ensuring consistent reminders are sent to EPPs through the AIMS system. The 9-12 month time frame enables site visitors ample time to review submissions.

Policy Change #3:

Policy 2.2: All self-study reports, regardless of the accreditation pathway, include the following information:

- (1) An overview that describes
 - (a) the context and unique characteristics of the EPP;
 - (b) the EPP's organizational structure;
 - (c) the EPP's vision, mission, and goals or claims;
 - (d) shared values and beliefs;
- (2) In addition to listing all programs in AIMS, EPPs submit tables that summarize
 - (a) enrollment trends for all programs for the past three years;
 - (b) candidate demographics; and
 - (c) faculty/instructors demographics. Common self-study tables can be found in Appendix B of these Operating Procedures.
- (3) A narrative **specific to** how the EPP meets the CAEP standards.
- (4) Evidence in support of the narrative **specific to the meeting of the CAEP Standards.**

Rationale: The language change increases clarity around the expectation that all evidence for accreditation should center on meeting the CAEP Standards.

Policy Change #4:

2.1.3 The Accreditation Council (hereinafter referred to as Council) reviews the accreditation documents for each EPP and makes accreditation decisions for the EPP at the initial and advanced levels.

Rationale: Although one self-study report is submitted, the Accreditation Council will make two separate accreditation decisions. There will be one decision at the initial level and one at the advanced level with areas of improvement and stipulations assigned at each level. This will reduce complexity and ensure clarity in decisions. EPPs and the working group support this change based on the diversity among programs at the advanced level. There will be fewer common assessments leading to less commonality of data across advanced level programs. Because of the uniqueness of advanced level programs, continuing the previous policy would make it difficult for the team to reach a single decision across the advanced and initial levels.