

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

Thomas More University: Approval of Initial Programs

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should accept the recommendations from the Accreditation Audit Committee (AAC) to approve the initial level preparation programs at Thomas More University.

Rationale:

16 KAR 5:010 outlines the role and responsibilities of the AAC. The AAC has followed the regulatory procedures.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB grant the Education Preparation Provider (EPP) approval for the initial preparation programs at Thomas More University?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 5:010

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:010 identifies the requirements and processes for EPPs to demonstrate evidence of meeting standards for accreditation and program approval. EPPs may pursue state accreditation or national accreditation from an EPSB approved accreditor. The EPSB has approved the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) as national accreditors for EPPs. All educator preparation programs leading to certification or rank change must be reviewed and approved by the EPSB.

Summary: An AAQEP Site Visitors team conducted the on-site visit evaluation of the EPP on September 27-29, 2023.

Under AAQEP guidelines, the site visitors' do not make recommendations on standards met or not met, they corroborate information provided in the self-study and confirm accuracy of data while on site, completing a summary of findings for AAQEP Accreditation Commissioners. AAQEP Accreditation Commission, upon reviewing the accreditation materials and the summary of findings will determine if the Standards were met or not met and will award or not award accreditation.

In accordance with 16 KAR 5:010, an EPP that seeks national accreditation no longer has to concurrently go through state accreditation.

AAQEP COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

AAQEP STANDARD 1 CANDIDATE/COMPLETER PERFORMANCE: Met with Observation

Observation: The Commission notes that the program has identified the need to improve candidates' preparation for culturally responsive practice, for working with English learners, and for using data to inform instruction. The program is leveraging relationships with partners in schools to support teachers in developing culturally responsive practices and has the capacity to support candidates as they develop culturally responsive practices. This observation pertains to Aspect 1c, which addresses candidates' preparation for culturally responsive practice.

AAQEP STANDARD 2 COMPLETER PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND GROWTH: Met with Observation

Observation: The Commission notes that the program has identified the need to improve candidates' preparation for culturally responsive practice, for working with English learners, and for using data to inform instruction. The program is leveraging relationships with partners in schools to support teachers in developing culturally responsive practices and has the capacity to support candidates as they develop culturally responsive practices. This observation pertains to Aspect 2b, which expects program completers to engage in culturally responsive practices in diverse contexts.

AAQEP STANDARD 3 QUALITY PROGRAM PRACTICES: Met

AAQEP STANDARD 4 PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT IN SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT: Met with Observation

Observation: The Commission notes that the program has identified the need to improve candidates' preparation for culturally responsive practice, for working with English learners, and for using data to inform instruction. The program is leveraging relationships with partners in schools to support teachers in developing culturally responsive practices and has the capacity to support candidates as they develop culturally responsive practices. This observation pertains to Aspect 4a, which expects the program to engage with local partners to support high-need schools and reduce disparities in educational outcomes.

AAQEP ACCREDITATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

The AAQEP Accreditation Council met on December 1, 2023, and made the accreditation decision and found all standards were met by the EPP at Thomas More University for the initial programs.

ACCREDITATION AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

On December 13, 2023, the AAC met and reviewed the initial programs for Thomas More University. 16 KAR 5:010 requires EPPs to submit each of its program review documents for review prior to its on-site accreditation visit. Thomas More University submitted their programs and received temporary approval of all programs pending a successful accreditation.

Pursuant to 16 KAR 5:010, Section 19, the AAC recommends: Approval of the initial level educator preparation programs at Thomas More University.

Budget Impact: KDE resources (staff) to facilitate the review and accreditation processes.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Content Area Program Reviewers

Program Review Committee

AAQEP Site Visitors

AAC

Pursuant to 16 KAR 5:010, Section 19, the AAC recommends approval of the initial level educator preparation programs at Thomas More University.

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