

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**STAFF NOTE**

**Action Item:**

University of Kentucky: Approval of Programs

**Staff Recommendation:**

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

**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 and advanced preparation programs at University of Kentucky?

**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 12-13, 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 the June 2020 meeting, EPSB voted on revisions to the regulation related to the Accreditation and Program Review for EPPs. The regulation states that effective February 1, 2022 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

**AAQEP STANDARD 2 COMPLETER PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND GROWTH:** Met with Comment

Comment: The Commission notes that the program's active collaboration with its stakeholder community is a model that builds candidates' capacity for their own professional engagement and continued growth. This comment pertains to Aspect 2e, which seeks evidence that program completers are able to establish goals for their own professional growth and engage in self-assessment and reflection.

**AAQEP STANDARD 3 QUALITY PROGRAM PRACTICES:** Met with Comment

Comment: The Commission notes that relative to Aspects 3d and 3e, the education program faculty and staff made significant and notable efforts to continue high-quality assessment system development, implementation, and ongoing use for continuous improvement following a significant external event impacting the quality assurance system.

**AAQEP STANDARD 4 PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT IN SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT:** Met with Comment

Comment: The Commission notes that the program's active collaboration with its stakeholder community is a model that builds candidates' capacity for their own professional engagement and continued growth. This comment pertains to Aspect 4a, which requires engaging with partners to support high-need schools and reduce disparities in educational outcomes.

## **AAQEP ACCREDITATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

The AAQEP Accreditation Council met on November 17, 2023, and made the accreditation decision and found all standards were met by the EPP at the University of Kentucky for both the initial and advanced programs.

## **ACCREDITATION AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

On December 13, 2023, the AAC met and reviewed both initial and advanced programs for the University of Kentucky. 16 KAR 5:010 requires EPPs to submit each of its program review

documents for review prior to its on-site accreditation visit. The University of Kentucky 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: (1) Approval of the initial and advanced level educator preparation programs at the University of Kentucky.

**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 and advanced level educator preparation programs at the University of Kentucky.

**Contact Person:**

Dr. Melissa Diebel, Consultant

Division of Educator Preparation and Certification

Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

(502) 564-4606

Email: [melissa.diebel@education.ky.gov](mailto:melissa.diebel@education.ky.gov)