

South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures

New Program Development

Important Note: In 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) entered a partnership agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the accrediting organization formed by the merger of the state's previous partner, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. On February 11, 2020, the State Board of Education (SBE) formally adopted the CAEP standards as the national provider standards which South Carolina providers must meet either through a national or state accreditation review. This policy, originally approved by the SBE on August 8, 2012, has been updated to replace references to NCATE with CAEP, the current accreditation partner. The term "unit" which was used with NCATE has been replaced with term "provider" or "educator preparation provider" as consistent with CAEP terminology. Except as noted, the content of the policy remains unchanged.

In South Carolina, educator preparation providers (EPPs) are authorized to recommend graduates for specific initial and advanced certifications. After verifying receipt of the degree and appropriate Praxis test scores, the Office of Certification [now the Office of Educator Services] acts on the certification recommendation of the provider. The state must therefore rely on EPPs to uphold the integrity of the certification process. Since certification is dependent on the presence of an approved program which has been state and, in most cases, nationally recognized, program integrity is at the heart of provider integrity. As circumstances are constantly changing in the educational environment, EPPs are encouraged to periodically review the effectiveness of the programs they offer, the continuing need for those programs, and the need for new programs not currently offered. Circumstances may necessitate the strategic modification or voluntary termination of a program.

The following policy is intended to assist EPPs in managing their programs in an effective manner.

New Program Development

The development of new programs is encouraged. Providers should be aware that the new program development process depends partially on the public or private nature of the institution. Providers seeking to establish a new program in a public institution should begin the process through the new program proposal process of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE). EPPs in private institutions should begin the process with the SCDE. Providers are encouraged to consult with representatives of the CHE and the SCDE as appropriate as soon as a new program is contemplated. Providers are advised that the review of new program proposals, both public and private, often requires several iterations before final approval is secured. While it is realistic to consider that a complete proposal, submitted at the beginning of the fall semester, might be approved for implementation the following fall, it is not realistic to consider that a complete proposal, submitted at the beginning of the spring semester, would be ready for implementation the next fall.