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**Educator Preparation Units and Program/Licensure Areas**

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**The Background:**

The State Department of Education is responsible for reviewing the educator preparation units and specialty program licensure areas offered by public and private educator preparation programs. The standards used to assess educator preparation units are the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) unit standards accessible at website: <http://www.ncate.org/Standards/NCATEUnitStandards/tabid/123/Default.aspx>

The standards used to assess the specialty area licensure programs offered by program providers are the Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines available at website: <http://tn.gov/education/lic/doc/accttchlicstds.pdf>

Recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Steps in the review process include:

- Preparation by the program provider of an institutional report that describes how the program meets the standards
- On-campus visit by a State Board of Examiners (BOE) team; for NCATE accreditation, NCATE Board of Examiners team also visits
- BOE report submitted to the institution
- Institution response to the BOE report submitted
- Consideration of BOE report; institution response to the BOE report, and the institutional report by the Commissioner's Advisory Committee for Unit and Program Approval
- Recommendations to the Commissioner
- Recommendations to the Board
- Continuing NCATE accreditation/State approval visits occur on a seven year cycle which may include focused or follow-up visits during the interim period

The State Department recommendations for educator preparation units and specialty area licensure programs fall into one of three categories: Approval, Approval with Stipulations, or Denial of Approval.

Attached are recommendations for the educator preparation units and specialty area licensure programs at the following institutions:

**Joint NCATE/STATE Continuing Unit Accreditation and Licensure Program Approval Visits:**

Southern Adventist University  
Tennessee Technological University

**Concurrent NCATE First-time Unit Accreditation/STATE Continuing Licensure Program Approval Visits**

Cumberland University  
Victory University

**State-only Continuing Approval Visit**

Aquinas College

**State-only Focused Visit**

Fisk University

**The Master Plan Connection:**

The approval of educator preparation programs is based on the policy and procedures adopted by the State Board of Education that utilize the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standards for assessment of the professional education unit of teacher preparation providers and the Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines for the assessment of the licensure programs offered by the program providers.

**First to the Top Connection:**

The approval of educator preparation programs is reflective of the Great Teachers and Leaders component of First to the Top.

**The Recommendation:**

The State Department of Education Office of Teacher Education and Accreditation recommends adoption of the attached recommendations on final reading. SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

(Most Recent BOE Visit: Joint NCATE/State, February 2011)

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Unit Action: NCATE\* Accreditation  
(Continuing Initial Level)  
(First-time Advanced Level)

**PART II. PROGRAM /LICENSURE AREAS**

A. Actions for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval:

Continuing Approval:  
English 7-12  
Mathematics 7-12  
Biology 7-12  
Chemistry 7-12  
Physics 7-12  
History 7-12  
(Advanced)  
School Counselor PreK-12

B. Actions for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval that Align with Revisions to State Standards

Continuing Approval:  
Elementary Education K-6  
Vocal/General Music K-12  
Instrumental/General Music K-12  
Physical Education K-12/ Health and  
Wellness K-12 (Dual Endorsement)

C. Actions for Programs Reviewed for First-time Approval

Approval:  
French 7-12  
Spanish 7-12  
History/Government 7-12 (Dual Endorsement)  
History 7-12/Psychology 9-12 (Dual Endorsement)  
Visual Arts K-12

\*National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

NCATE Accreditation  
(Continuing Initial Level)  
(First-time Advanced Level)

**PART II. SPECIALTY AREA/LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**PART II.A. PROGRAM STIPULATIONS**

None Cited

**PART II.B. PROGRAM WEAKNESSES**

None Cited

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

(Most Recent BOE Visit: Joint NCATE/State, March 2011)

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Unit Action: NCATE\* Accreditation Deferred until April 2012  
(Initial Level)  
NCATE\* Accreditation Continued until Spring 2013  
(Advanced Level)

**PART II. PROGRAM/LICENSURE AREAS**

A. Actions for Previously Approved Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval:

Continuing Approval

(Initial)

English 7-12

French 7-12

Spanish 7-12

German 7-12

Mathematics 7-12

Biology 7-12

Chemistry 7-12

Physics 7-12

Earth Science 7-12

History 7-12

Government 7-12

Geography 7-12

Economics 7-12

Psychology 9-12

Sociology 9-12

(Advanced)

School Psychologist PreK-12

School Counselor PreK-12

Library Information Specialist PreK-12

B. Actions for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval that Align with Revisions to State Licensure Standards and Guidelines

Continuing Approval:

(Initial)

Elementary Education K-6  
Middle Grades Education 4-8  
Agriculture/Agriscience 7-12  
Family & Consumer Science 5-12  
    Food Production & Management Services 9-12  
    Early Childhood Care & Services 9-12  
    Textile & Apparel Production & Services  
    Management 9-12  
Visual Arts K-12  
Vocal/General Music K-12  
Instrumental/General Music K-12  
Speech Communication 7-12/Theatre K-12  
Health & Wellness/Physical Education K-12  
Special Education: Modified K-12  
Special Education: Comprehensive K-12  
English as a Second Language PreK-12

Continuing Approval with Stipulation

Special Ed: Preschool/Early Childhood Education  
PreK-3 and Early Childhood Education PreK-3 (dual  
endorsement)

C. Action for New Programs Reviewed for First-time Approval

Approval:

(Initial)

Transitional Licensure

(Advanced)

Reading Specialist PreK-12

\*National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

The Office of Teacher Education and Accreditation will work with Tennessee Technological University in establishing timelines for correcting critical deficiencies identified in the stipulation in the program licensure areas.

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

NCATE Accreditation Deferred until April 2012 (Initial Level)  
NCATE Accreditation Continued until Spring 2013 (Advanced Level)

**PART II. SPECIALTY AREA/LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**PART II.A. PROGRAM STIPULATIONS**

**Special Ed: Preschool/Early Childhood Education PreK-3 and Early Childhood Education PreK-3 (dual endorsement)**

1. An alignment of the program content to the Early Childhood Education PreK-3 standards must be provided.

**PART II.B. PROGRAM WEAKNESSES**

**Elementary Education K-6**

1. There is a lack of specific focus on the Elementary Education K-6 methods preparation.

**Middle Grades Education 4-8**

2. There is a lack of specific focus on the Middle Grades Education 4-8 methods preparation.

**TENNESSE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ACTION REPORT  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
FOR  
CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

(Most Recent BOE Visit: Concurrent NCATE/State, April 2011)

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Unit Action: NCATE\* First-time Accreditation  
(Initial and Advanced Levels)

**PART II. LICENSURE AREAS**

A. Actions for Previously Approved Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval

Continuing Approval:

English 7-12

Mathematics 7-12

Biology 7-12

History 7-12

Psychology 9-12

MAE Track II (Post-Baccalaureate Program)

Continuing Approval With Stipulation

Sociology 9-12

B. Actions for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval that Comply with Revisions to State Standards

Continuing Approval

Elementary Education K-6

Vocal/General Music K-12

Instrumental/General Music K-12

Special Education: Modified K-12

Special Education: Comprehensive K-12

Physical Education K-12

C. Actions for Programs Reviewed for First-time Approval:

Approval:

Early Learning and Development PreK-K

Early Childhood Education PreK-3

Special Education: Preschool/ECE PreK-3

Visual Arts K-12

Business/Business Technology 7-12

Transitional Licensure Program – Track III

Continuing Approval with Stipulation  
Middle Grades Education 4-8

\*National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

The Office of Teacher Education and Accreditation will work with Cumberland University in establishing timelines for correcting critical deficiencies identified in the stipulation in the program licensure areas.

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

NCATE Accreditation  
(Initial and Advanced Levels)

**PART II. SPECIALTY AREA LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**PART II.A. PROGRAM STIPULATIONS**

**Sociology 9-12**

The unit must provide a completed matrix that shows alignment of the coursework to the required Sociology standards.

**Middle Grades Education 4-8**

Prior to termination of the program, all candidates currently enrolled, must complete the program by the end of June 2012.

**PART II.B. PROGRAM WEAKNESSES**

**Early Childhood Education PreK-K & Elementary Education K-6**

All candidates may not have the opportunity to use measurements and create learning opportunities as indicated in Mathematics Standard 5: Measurement.

**Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood Education PreK-3**

The program's current coursework combination of College Algebra and three professional education courses may lack sufficient rigor to fully address the candidate's opportunity to acquire the math component of Standard 1.3.

**English 7-12**

It is not ensured all licensure candidates would have the opportunity to acquire English standard K, "Identify and recommend contemporary literature appropriate to the interests and abilities of young people."

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
VICTORY UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

(Most Recent BOE Visit: Concurrent NCATE/State Visit March 2011)

**I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Unit Action: NCATE\* Accreditation Denied  
State Approval Denied  
(Initial Level)

**II. PROGRAM/LICENSURE AREAS**

- A. Actions for Previously Approved Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval

Denied Approval:  
English 7-12  
Biology 7-12

- B. Actions for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval that Align with Revisions to State Standards

Denied Approval  
Elementary Education K-6

- C. Recommendations for Programs Reviewed for First-time Approval:

Denied Approval  
Middle Grades Education 4-8  
History 7-12  
History 7-12/Psychology 9-12  
Business 7-12  
Transitional Licensure

**III. DURATION OF DENIAL**

Beginning May 1, 2013, Victory University may submit documentation to gain State conditional approval. The Office of Teacher Education and Accreditation will work with Victory University in establishing timelines and documentation and reporting requirements for State conditional approval. Subsequent to achieving State conditional approval, a Board of Examiners visit would be scheduled spring semester 2014 or thereafter.

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
VICTORY UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2010**

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

(Initial Level)

Standard 1: Not Met

Standard 2: Not Met

Standard 3: Not Met

Standard 4: Not Met

Standard 5: Not Met

Standard 6: Met

**PART I.A. UNIT STIPULATIONS**

**Standard 1: Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Professional Dispositions**

1. The unit lacks sufficient evidence that candidates demonstrate adequate content knowledge.
2. The unit lacks sufficient evidence that candidates demonstrate adequate professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills.
3. The unit lacks sufficient evidence that candidates make appropriate adjustments to instruction and monitor student progress.
4. The unit does not ensure that candidates use assessments in instruction and develop meaningful learning experiences for P-12 students.
5. The unit does not ensure that candidates develop learning

**Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation**

1. The unit does not have an assessment system that collects and analyzes data to assess candidate performance, program quality, and unit operations.
2. The unit does not involve the professional community in the development and evaluation of its assessment system.
3. The unit has not taken effective steps to eliminate bias in assessments and is not working to establish the fairness, accuracy and consistency of its assessment procedures.
4. The unit does not regularly share assessment data with candidates and professional education faculty members to help them reflect on and improve their performance and programs.

5. The unit makes limited use of data to make program improvements.

**Standard 3: Field Experiences and Clinical Practice**

1. The unit's school partners do not participate in the design, delivery, and evaluation of field experiences and clinical practice.
2. The unit does not require candidates to collect and analyze data on student learning and to reflect on their work to develop strategies for improving student learning.
3. Field experiences are not linked to the development of proficiencies delineated in professional, state, and institutional standards.

**Standard 4: Diversity**

1. It is unclear that curriculum and field experiences for the preparation of educators prepares candidates to teach diverse populations.

**Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development**

1. Not all professional education faculty members possess academic qualifications or professional experiences in the areas for which they are assigned to teach.
2. The unit lacks sufficient evidence that professional education faculty demonstrate the use of varied instructional strategies.
3. The unit lacks sufficient evidence that all professional education faculty members are actively engaged in scholarship.
4. The unit is not systematically and regularly evaluating professional education faculty members.

**Standard 6: Unit Governance and Resources**

1. The unit does not effectively engage P-12 teachers and other practicing educators in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the unit and its programs.
2. The unit does not effectively manage or coordinate all programs so that candidates meet standards.

**PART I.B. UNIT WEAKNESSES**

None Cited

**PART II. SPECIALTY AREA LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**PART II.A. PROGRAM STIPULATION**

**Elementary Education K-6, Middle Grades Education 4-8, English 7-12, Biology 7-12**

**Middle Grades Education 4-8, History 7-12, History 7-12/Psychology 9-12, Business 12, and Transitional Licensure**

To be eligible for licensure issuance, candidates already admitted and enrolled in the program (bachelor, post-bachelor, or transitional license) will have until December 31, 2012 to complete the respective Victory University licensure program, pass required Praxis II tests, and meet all requirements for a Tennessee teacher license. For each candidate who may be eligible to meet the December 31, 2012 completion date, the University must provide their names and social security numbers to the Office of Teacher Licensing by March 15, 2012.

**Part II.B. PROGRAM WEAKNESSES**

None Cited

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ACTION REPORT  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
FOR  
AQUINAS COLLEGE  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

(Most Recent BOE Visit: State-only Continuing Approval, March 2011)

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Unit Action: Continuing State Approval

**PART II. LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

Action for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval that Align with Revisions to State Standards

Approval:  
Elementary Education K-6  
(B.S. and Post-Baccalaureate)

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ACTION REPORT  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
FOR  
AQUINAS COLLEGE  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

**PART I.A. UNIT STIPULATIONS**

None Cited

**PART I.B. UNIT WEAKNESSES**

None Cited

**PART II. LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

**PART II.A. PROGRAM STIPULATIONS**

None Cited

**PART II.A. PROGRAM WEAKNESSES**

None Cited

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAM  
ACTION REPORT  
FOR  
FISK UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

(Most Recent BOE Visit: State Only Focused, February 2011)

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Unit Action: Continuing State Approval  
with Stipulations

**PART II. LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

Program Action:

A. Action for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval

Continuing Approval  
(Initial)  
English 7-12  
French 7-12  
Spanish 7-12  
History 7-12  
Government 7-12  
Mathematics 7-12  
Biology 7-12  
Chemistry 7-12  
Physics 7-12  
Theatre K-12

B. Action for Programs Reviewed for Continuing Approval that Comply  
with Revisions to State Standards and Guidelines

Continuing Approval:  
(Initial)  
Elementary Education K-6  
Visual Arts K-12  
Vocal/General Music K-12  
Instrumental/General Music K-12

C. Action for Programs Reviewed for First-time Approval

Approval  
(Initial)  
Special Education: Modified K-12

The Office of Teacher Education and Accreditation will work with Fisk University in establishing timelines for correcting critical deficiencies identified as stipulations in the unit standards.

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT AND LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
ACTION REPORT  
FISK UNIVERSITY  
JANUARY 27, 2011**

**PART I. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNIT**

Standard 1: Met  
Standard 2: Met  
Standard 3: Met  
Standard 4: Met  
Standard 5: Met  
Standard 6: Met

**PART I.A. UNIT STIPULATIONS**

**Standard 2 Assessment System and Unit Evaluation**

1. The unit does not regularly and comprehensively gather, aggregate, summarize, and analyze assessment and evaluation information on the unit's operations, its programs, or candidates (Standard 2 element b).
2. The unit makes limited or no use of data collected, including candidate and graduate performance information, to evaluate the efficacy of its courses, programs, and clinical experiences (Standard 2 element c).

**PART I.B. UNIT WEAKNESSES**

**Standard 1. Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Professional Dispositions**

1. In relation to Standard 1 elements a, b, c, and g, the data on candidate knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions is limited in scope and often anecdotal (Standard 1 elements a, b, c, and g).
2. The unit does not ensure that candidates focus on student learning, use assessments in instruction, and develop meaningful learning experiences for P-12 students based on their developmental levels and prior experiences. (Standard 1 element d).

**Standard 2 Assessment System and Unit Evaluation**

3. The assessment system lacks the cohesiveness necessary to substantiate improvements in the unit programs.  
(Standard 2 element a)

**PART II. SPECIALTY AREA LICENSURE PROGRAMS**

## **PART II.A. SPECIALTY AREA LICENSURE PROGRAM STIPULATIONS**

None Cited

## **PART II.B. SPECIALTY AREA LICENSURE PROGRAM WEAKNESSES**

### **Theatre K-12**

1. The revised Theatre K-12 standards have not been used in presenting the current program.

Note: the Institutional Rejoinder indicates the university will close the Dramatics and Speech department. In order to eliminate the licensure program from the list of approved programs, a correspondence should be submitted to the Office of Teacher Education and Accreditation indicating when licensure program enrollment will cease and when any current enrolled candidates will complete the program.

### **Special Education: Modified K-12**

2. The course work designed to prepare candidates to assist K-12 students with reading difficulties is limited (Standard 1.1 and 4.3).