

TOPIC: REAPPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

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I. SUMMARY

This action item requests reapproval of the teacher preparation programs at the University of Phoenix.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education determines reapproval of all teacher preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education in the state, conditioned on a positive recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for the five-year review and reapproval of teacher education units is as follows: The institution of higher education submits an institutional report to both the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE). The CDE conducts a review of all the programs within the teacher education unit to ensure that the content of each program is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements for teacher licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. 22-60.5). The DHE reviews the teacher education unit's programs for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; screening and counseling of teacher candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field based training; supervised field based experience (at least 800 hours); and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base (C.R.S. 23-1-121.2). Reapproval site visits are jointly conducted by CDE and DHE not more frequently than once every five years. The site visit consists of an entrance interview, unit and program review (described above), and an exit interview. The CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to DHE.

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REAPPROVAL

At its meeting on May 14, 2009, the Colorado State Board of Education reapproved the content of the University of Phoenix's teacher preparation programs. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121.4, the department confirmed that the University of Phoenix's teacher preparation programs meet all statutory criteria.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission reapproves the teacher preparation programs at the University of Phoenix.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, the final report from the on-site review team, and the letter of approval from the State Board of Education are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

VII. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

22-60.5 C.R.S.
23-1-121 C.R.S.