



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Professional Education Unit

MEMO

To: Dr. Jean Boreen
Dr. Pamela Stephens

From: Cynthia Conn, PhD, Assessment & Accreditation Consultant

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Conn".

Date: 10/29/2013

RE: NCATE accreditation implications of the BSEd in Art Education proposed program changes

I write in my capacity as the Northern Arizona University Assessment & Accreditation Consultant for the Professional Education Unit which is accredited by NCATE. This review is in regards to compliance with NCATE/CAEP accreditation. The BSEd in Art Education is reviewed by the Arizona Department of Education, and it does lead to the granting of an institutional recommendation. This memo addresses accreditation and state review issues only, and should not be construed as an endorsement of any proposed changes.

Additionally, this verification does not include evaluation of the content related assessments required by the NAU Professional Education Unit. Per current NCATE guidelines, the BSEd in Art Education, a degree leading to Initial Certification, is not required to submit for review through the Specialized Professional Association (SPA) review process because there is no approved set of art standards. However, there are still several assessment requirements noted in the NCATE guidelines and established by the Professional Education Unit that are needed for the unit level or institutional accreditation report.

Accreditation Verification: The proposed program changes for the BSEd in Art Education maintain documentation of candidate performance regarding institutional, state, and national level standards and criteria required for NAU's NCATE/CAEP accreditation status.

Rationale: The program changes involves increasing the minimum GPA to 3.0 in all content major coursework and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 in all course work, and removing a reference to a cumulative GPA in Liberal Studies, which does not affect candidates' ability to demonstrate State, NCATE/CAEP or Unit level standards. The proposed change does not jeopardize NCATE/CAEP accreditation and may in fact support it given new criteria related to increased expectations of selectivity of candidates.