



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Professional Education Unit

MEMO

To: Dr. Jean Boreen
Dr. Angela Hansen

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 English Secondary 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 English Secondary Education is reviewed through the NCATE/CAEP Specialized Professional Association Program Review process which is accepted by the Arizona Department of Education per the Arizona and NCATE state agreement. Based on the success of the BSEd English Secondary Education SPA program review and the unit level or institutional accreditation process, the Arizona Department of Education does grant an institutional recommendation for this program. 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. However, there are still several assessment requirements noted in the NCATE/CAEP 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 English Secondary 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. These changes do 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.