



# NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

*Professional Education Unit*

## MEMO

**To:** Dr. Pradeep Maxwell Dass  
Ms. Sharon Cardenas

**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 Earth Science 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 Earth Science 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 Earth Science 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 Earth Science 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 involve replacing GLG 430 with GLG 259/GLG 259L and cross listing GLG 259 with GSP 259. Per correspondence with program faculty, GLG 259 and GLG 259L are not used to collect summative assessment data for accreditation reporting purposes. Thus, these changes do not affect candidates' ability to demonstrate State, NCATE/CAEP or Unit level standards. The proposed changes do not jeopardize NCATE/CAEP accreditation.