



UAA SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION OF INITIAL LICENSURE PROGRAMS

FACT SHEET

Administration

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1. UAA was notified it lost programmatic accreditation for a number of initial licensure programs within its School of Education (SoEd) on Jan. 11, 2019. This was after a multi-year process to regain a state-required accreditation from a nationally-recognized accreditor known as CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation).
2. CAEP's programmatic accreditation for SoEd is required by the State of Alaska's Dept. of Education and Early Development (DEED) to accept recommendations for initial licensure from UAA for students that graduate with education degrees.
3. Programmatic accreditation is limited to programs within universities—not an entire university. No programs or colleges beyond SoEd at UAA are impacted by CAEP's decision to revoke accreditation of SoEd's programs. In other words, programmatic accreditation is NOT university-wide.
4. On Jan. 15, Alaska DEED declared it would waive the CAEP accreditation requirement and continue to accept recommendations from UAA SoEd graduates for initial licensure only for the Spring and Summer terms at UAA.
5. As of January 2019, there were approximately 330 students enrolled in affected programs this spring semester. The number of students at other stages in the programs impacted by the accreditation revocation is larger, approximately 475.
6. UAA just confirmed (as of Jan. 25) it achieved **institutional re-accreditation** by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). This is the "master" university-wide accreditation that is critical for higher-ed institutions to attain and maintain credibility for maintaining high quality standards of education. **The CAEP decision is completely unrelated to NWCCU's re-accreditation of UAA.**

7. The initial licensure programs in SoEd lost accreditation primarily due to deficiencies in meeting CAEP's standards for how assessment data is collected, organized and reported by the school.
8. SoEd has addressed the issue of data collection, organization and reporting by adopting the services of edTPA, a performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system developed by Stanford University faculty and staff at the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity. **This system is widely regarded nationally as the gold standard in assessment of education programs.**
9. The initial licensure programs at SoEd that lost accreditation by CAEP are:
 - Early Childhood Bachelor of Arts
 - Early Childhood Post-Baccalaureate Certification
 - Elementary Bachelor of Arts
 - Elementary Post-Baccalaureate Certification
 - Master of Arts in Teaching Certification Program
 - Special Education Initial Certification
 - Early Childhood Special Education Initial Certification

SoEd programs **unaffected** by the CAEP decision are:

- Early Childhood Associate of Applied Science
 - Educational Leadership MEd and Grad Certification
 - Master of Education in Teaching & Learning
 - Language Education Grad Certification
 - Speech-Language Pathology Programs
 - Special Education, MEd & Grad Certification--(Special Education track that is not initial certification)
 - Early Childhood Special Education, MEd--(EC Special Education tracks that are not initial certification)
 - PACE 500 level courses
10. UAA's SoEd is one of three schools that operated administratively under the umbrella of the University of Alaska's College of Education. UA-Fairbanks and UA-Southeast each have Schools of Education, and both are separately accredited. UAF recently achieved re-accreditation by CAEP; UAS is in the two-year process of undertaking accreditation evaluation by CAEP. Although UAA's School of Education is administratively organized as part of the UA-wide College of Education, it is housed within UAA's College of Arts and Sciences.
 11. UAA SoEd met with DEED on Jan. 22 to determine process steps for evaluating what UAA is doing to rectify the deficiencies identified by CAEP, and to prepare a request to the Board of



Education that would extend the accreditation waiver requirement beyond the summer 2019 term.

12. Next, on Feb. 4, UAA will participate in a work session with the Alaska State Board of Education. For these meetings, UAA is preparing a presentation about the substantial progress made since the CAEP Self-Study Report was submitted in August 2017, and what has specifically been done to address the areas of improvement stipulated by CAEP's action report.
13. UAA's School of Education can reapply for accreditation by CAEP on January 11, 2020—exactly one year from the date it received the letter of notification. CAEP's process starts anew again at that point and can take up to three years to complete and re-accredit the program.

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