

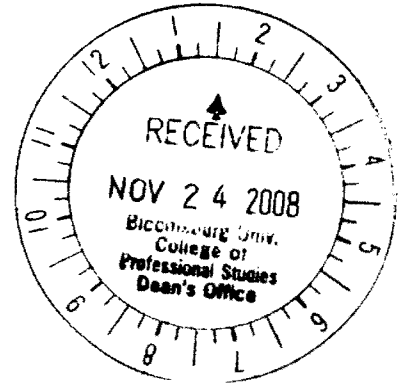


The Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation

Dr. David Soltz
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Page 1 - Corrected
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
James G. Cibulka
President

October 24, 2008

Dr. David Soltz
President
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
400 East Second Street
Carver Hall
Bloomsburg, PA 17815



Dear Dr. Soltz:

At its October 12-17, 2008 meeting in Washington, DC, the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the application for continuing accreditation (based on a focused visit) of the College of Professional Studies as the unit that oversees the professional education offerings at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. This letter is written to inform you of the Unit Accreditation Board's decision to continue accreditation of the College of Professional Studies at the initial teacher preparation level and to revoke the accreditation of the College of Professional Studies at the advanced preparation level. The revocation decision is preliminary. If this preliminary decision becomes final, the accreditation of the College of Professional Studies at the advanced preparation level will be terminated at the end of the Spring 2009 semester. Please note that in response to the revocation decision, the College of Professional Studies at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania has the opportunity to submit additional evidence about its advanced preparation level for another review before a final decision is made by the Unit Accreditation Board at its April 2009 meeting.

11/24/08

Details of the Unit Accreditation Board's findings are provided in the enclosed accreditation action report. Strengths noted in the Board of Examiners report have not been reiterated but are certainly considered part of the institution's accreditation visit record. You may use the information provided in the Board of Examiners report at your discretion.

Your institution will be required to complete a Professional Education Data System instrument each year during the accreditation period. You are not required to report specifically on progress in the areas for improvement cited, but you are encouraged to do so. In addition, you will be expected to report evaluations and changes in relation to all six standards.

The recent meeting of NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board culminates several years of preparation and deliberation on the part of both the institution seeking accreditation and NCATE. Beginning with the institutional self-study and ending with the visit of the examiners, a great deal of thought and effort went into the accreditation process. NCATE places great faith in its Board of Examiners members and the Unit Accreditation Board, and we want you to know that your unit was examined with great care throughout each stage of the accreditation process. Moreover, we have been most pleased with the cooperation received from the faculty, staff, and administration of your institution. Please let us know if there is anything we might do to explain the findings of the Board, or to assist you in determining any future courses of action.

Enclosed are copies of NCATE's policies on dissemination of information as well as policies and procedures regarding revocation of accreditation. Should Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania elect to exercise the

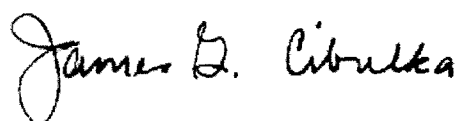
option of submitting additional evidence for reconsideration by the Unit Accreditation Board, the Fall 2008 revocation decision would not become public prior to the Board's final decision at its Spring 2009 meeting. In the interim, your institution would retain the status of continuing accreditation with conditions. If Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania chooses this course of action, NCATE is to be notified by **November 10, 2008** and the unit's additional evidence must arrive at the NCATE office no later than **April 1, 2009**. The additional evidence must reflect the situation at the time of the Spring 2008 visit. In the event that your unit opts not to submit additional evidence for reconsideration, the Unit Accreditation Board's Fall 2008 decision to revoke Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania's accreditation at the advanced preparation level will be considered final, unless an intent to appeal the Fall 2008 decision has been filed in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

NCATE policies and procedures related to appeals are enclosed. In the event you decide not to submit additional evidence for reconsideration, please note that you have until **November 10, 2008** to file a notice of intent to appeal the revocation decision by the Unit Accreditation Board, should you elect to do so. As an accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, NCATE is required to notify the Secretary of Education, the appropriate state licensing agency, and the public within 24 hours of a final accreditation decision to deny or revoke accreditation. Therefore, the decision to revoke the accreditation of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania at the advanced preparation level will be considered final and a matter of public record on November 12, 2008, unless a notice of either an intent to appeal or an intent to submit additional evidence has been received by close of business on November 10, 2008. If a notice to appeal is filed on or before that date, the decision to revoke accreditation at the advanced preparation level will not be considered final until the appeals process is exhausted. Your institution will retain the status of continuing accreditation with conditions during that time period. If Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania does not appeal or loses its appeal of the decision to revoke accreditation at the advanced preparation level, NCATE requires that the unit's accreditation status be communicated by the institution to candidates enrolled in professional education programs.

If you do not choose to appeal the accreditation decision or to submit additional evidence for another review by the Unit Accreditation Board, we encourage you to attend to the areas for improvement identified in the enclosed accreditation action report. The advanced preparation level must gain an accredited status within three years to maintain the accreditation of the initial teacher preparation level. Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you plan to exercise this option, so we can ensure that appropriate materials for planning the next review are forwarded to you in a timely manner.

Should you have any questions regarding NCATE's action or the items reported herein, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. Cibulka

Enclosures

cc: ✓ Dr. Dianne L. H. Mark, College of Professional Studies
Mr. Clifton Edwards, Pennsylvania State Department of Education
Board of Examiners Team

NCATE
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
ACCREDITATION ACTION
Report

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania

October 2008

ACCREDITATION DECISION

Accreditation is continued at the initial teacher preparation level. Accreditation is revoked at the advanced preparation level. Standard 4 at the advanced preparation level was not met at the time of the focused visit. To retain accreditation at the initial teacher preparation level, accreditation at the advanced preparation level must be reinstated before fall 2011.

Please refer to the Board of Examiners report for strengths of the unit and for additional information on findings and areas for improvement.

STANDARDS SUMMARY

Standards	Initial Teacher Preparation (ITP)	Advanced Preparation (ADV)
★ 1 Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Professional Dispositions	Met	Met
★ 2 Assessment System and Unit Evaluation	Met	Met
★ 3 Field Experiences and Clinical Practice	Met	Met
★ 4 Diversity	Met	Not Met
★ 5 Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development	Met	Met
★ 6 Unit Governance and Resources	Met	Met

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The following areas for improvement (AFIs) should be addressed before the unit's next on-site visit by NCATE. Progress made toward eliminating them should be reported in Part C of the unit's annual report to NCATE. The Board of Examiners (BOE) team will indicate in its report at the next visit whether the

institution has adequately addressed each of the AFIs.

This list of AFIs includes those cited as a result of documentation and/or a focused visit as well as those cited at the last full visit.

STANDARD 2 - Assessment System and Unit Evaluation

The unit has an assessment system that collects and analyzes data on applicant qualifications, candidate and graduate performance, and unit operations to evaluate and improve the performance of candidates, the unit, and its programs.

1	No systematic method of data analysis and synthesis exists to inform programmatic changes and improvement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV
2	The assessment system does not have a mechanism for identifying how candidates achieve PDE standards of performance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV

STANDARD 4 - Diversity

The unit designs, implements, and evaluates curriculum and provides experiences for candidates to acquire and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions necessary to help all students learn. Assessments indicate that candidates can demonstrate and apply proficiencies related to diversity. Experiences provided for candidates include working with diverse populations, including higher education and P-12 school faculty, candidates, and students in P-12 schools.

1	The unit does not systematically use disaggregated data on candidates' abilities to address the needs of learners from diverse populations for program evaluation and improvement.	<input type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV
2	The unit's collection of assessment data on candidates' abilities to address the needs of learners from diverse populations is limited and varies across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV
3	The unit does not ensure that all candidates interact with faculty from diverse ethnic and racial groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV
4	The unit does not ensure that all candidates interact with peers from diverse ethnic and racial groups.	<input type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV
5	The unit does not ensure that all candidates interact with P-12 students from diverse ethnic and racial groups.	<input type="checkbox"/> ITP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADV

STANDARD 6 - Unit Governance and Resources

The unit has the leadership, authority, budget, personnel, facilities, and resources, including information technology resources, for the preparation of candidates to meet professional, state, and institutional standards.

1	Overload teaching does not allow unit faculty to be effectively engaged in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITP
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research and service.

ADV

NOTE: Neither NCATE staff, team members, nor other agents of NCATE are empowered to make or modify Unit Accreditation Board decisions. These remain the sole responsibility of the Unit Accreditation Board itself. This Accreditation Action Report is available to members of the public upon receipt of a request in writing.