

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PRACTITIONER PREPARATION (LICENSURE) PROGRAM**  
**CONTINUING APPROVAL REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Receive the continuing approval report from the Practitioner Preparation Program in the College of Education at the University of Iowa.

**Executive Summary:** The University of Iowa's Practitioner Preparation Program (1) underwent a self-study that addressed questions developed by the College of Education's Teacher Education Committee; and (2) had an on-site visit by the Iowa Department of Education Review Team. The Program received continuing approval for the maximum period of five years allowed by the State Board of Education. This report addresses the Board's Strategic Plan objective to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students" (1.1.).

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description.** In order to graduate from a teacher education program at the University of Iowa and be recommended for licensure to teach in the state of Iowa, teacher candidates must demonstrate competence according to 11 standards, derived from the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium and aligned with the eight standards used to evaluate teachers in the state.
- ◇ **Purpose of Continuing Approval.** In order to obtain employment as a teacher in the State of Iowa, an individual must have graduated from a practitioner preparation program that is approved by the Iowa State Board of Education.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The approving body is the Iowa State Board of Education. The Iowa State Board of Education has the authority to set standards and approve practitioner programs based on those standards (§282-14.12(272)).
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the College of Education contained the responses from the teacher preparation programs of how they address the requirements contained in the state code for teacher preparation programs.
- ◇ **Review Team Report.** In September 2004, the Iowa Department of Education review team examined six standards – governance and resources; diversity; faculty performance and development; clinical practice; assessment of candidate knowledge; and assessment of the unit and determined that the Practitioner Preparation Program met the criteria required by the department.

◇ Sample Strengths Identified by the Review Team.

- ☑ “The teacher education program is of high quality and is supported by a strong clinical program. University of Iowa graduates are well prepared.”
- ☑ “The governance structure appears to work well which is especially impressive when considering the size and scope of the programs and the overall institution.”
- ☑ “Diversity is a clear priority within the program and across campus.”
- ☑ “The ePortfolio system is an excellent tool for graduates’ job searches, and the fairly recent modifications have made it a central component of the candidate and program assessment system.”

◇ Concerns Identified by the Review Team.

- ☑ “No advisory board is in place to provide regular advice and feedback to the program. A number of programs are seriously understaffed. Facilities, especially in Lindquist Hall, are inadequate for current needs.” **All items have been adequately addressed and requirements have been met.**
- ☑ “A need for clarification exists regarding the team teaching requirement for faculty.” **This item has been adequately addressed and requirements have been met.**
- ☑ “It is important for the program to monitor field placements to provide all students with multiple placements with varying age groups and diverse student populations. The program is advised to address discrepancies in field experience requirements among program areas. In evaluating candidates’ knowledge, dispositions and performance, sub-standards need to be more thoroughly outlined for solid evaluation. The requirements for student teacher supervisors should be clearly outlined and implemented.” **All items have been adequately addressed and requirements have been met.**
- ☑ “While an overall plan for performance assessment is in place, specific improvements are needed to allow performance assessment to be an integral part of program planning and evaluation. Considerations should include the following: criteria for sub-standards throughout the program; rubrics and scoring guides (especially for portfolio assignments); systematic feedback from stakeholders; summaries of faculty; and responsibility for managing the system.” **This item has been adequately addressed and requirements have been met.**

◇ Accreditation Status. In November 2005, the Iowa State Board of Education approved the University of Iowa’s Practitioner Preparation Programs through the 2010-2011 academic year.

Details about the accreditation report are available in the Board Office.