

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 20 - APPROVAL OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

003 Requirements for Teacher Education Program Approval

003.01 Original Teacher Education Program Approval

003.01A Letter of Application and Institutional Planning Report. Any Nebraska institution of higher education may apply for approval of its teacher preparation program by submitting a letter of intent to seek approval and an Institutional Planning Report (IPR) signed by the chief academic officer of the institution on behalf of the governing board of the institution. These documents must be received by the Commissioner on or before January 15 of the calendar year in which the institution seeks to begin the approval process.

003.01B Governing Board Approval. The IPR shall include documentation that the governing board of the institution has approved the plans and a time table whereby the institution will meet each of the requirements to become a standard institution of higher education within four (4) years.

003.01C Chapter 20 Compliance. The IPR shall include the procedures and time table for compliance with the requirements in Sections 004 through 007 of this chapter.

003.01D Collaboration and Support of School Systems. The IPR shall contain statements of support from school systems documenting their collaboration and assistance in planning to provide field experiences which meet the requirements of 92 NAC 20 and 92 NAC 24.

003.01E The IPR shall contain documentation that the institution is regionally accredited.

003.02 Initial Provisional Approval

003.02A The Commissioner, after receiving the institution's request to begin the process of becoming a standard institution of higher education, shall appoint a team to visit the institution and report on the institution's ability to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

003.02A1 The team shall schedule a visit to the institution within sixty (60) days after receiving the IPR.

003.02A2 The team shall file a recommendation with the Commissioner within sixty (60) days after the scheduled visit to the institution.

003.02A3 Following a review of the institutional visit report, the Commissioner shall file a recommendation with the Board regarding the application and shall notify the institution of the recommendations. Notification shall be sent by certified mail to the chief academic officer of the institution. The institution shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the recommendation to request an opportunity for a hearing before the Board as provided in Section 008 of this chapter.

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003.02A4 Following a review of the Commissioner's recommendation, and after giving the institution an opportunity for a hearing, if requested, the Board shall either approve or deny the institution's implementation of the plan under provisional approval. Provisional approval permits the institution to phase in a teacher education program, excluding clinical practice, over a period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

003.03 Continuing Provisional Approval

003.03A Provisional Approval Report. By March 1 of each year during provisional approval the institution shall file the Provisional Approval Report with the Commissioner which includes:

003.03A1 Documentation that written notification has been made to all candidates taking education courses that the institution has provisional approval, but is not yet approved for recommending certification.

003.03A2 Statements of continuing participation by the school systems in which the institution is placing candidates for field experiences.

003.03A3 Documentation of the degree to which the institution is in compliance with all applicable sections of 92 NAC 20, excluding clinical practice; 92 NAC 23; and 92 NAC 24. The Provisional Approval Report shall indicate how, in each succeeding year, the institution is progressing toward total compliance, excluding clinical practice.

003.03B The Commissioner may respond each year with a scheduled visit by a team or staff, to the institution within sixty (60) days after receiving the Provisional Approval Report.

003.03C The team or staff conducting such a visit shall file a recommendation with the Commissioner within thirty (30) days after a scheduled visit.

003.03D Following a review of the report, the Commissioner shall file a recommendation with the Board regarding the application and shall notify the institution of the recommendations. Notification shall be sent by certified mail to the chief academic officer of the institution. The institution shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the recommendation to request an opportunity for a hearing before the Board as provided in Section 008 of this chapter.

003.03E Following a review of the Commissioner's recommendation, and after giving the institution an opportunity for a hearing, if requested, the Board shall either approve or deny continuation of provisional or recommend temporary approval.

003.04 Temporary Approval to Offer a Teacher Education Program. If the Commissioner recommends and the Board concurs, the institution may be granted a one (1) year temporary approval. Temporary approval allows the institution to place candidates and to recommend graduates of the program to the Department for certification. Temporary approval may be renewed on a yearly basis for a maximum of three (3) years, using the process found in Sections 003.04A through 003.04F of this chapter for each of these years.

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003.04A By March 1 of each year in which the institution is operating with temporary approval, the institution shall file a Temporary Approval Report with the Commissioner. The Temporary Approval Report shall document complete compliance with all applicable sections of 92 NAC 20, 92 NAC 23, and 92 NAC 24.

003.04B The Commissioner may respond with a scheduled visit by a team or staff, to the institution within sixty (60) days after receiving the Temporary Approval Report.

003.04C The team or staff conducting such a visit shall file a recommendation with the Commissioner within thirty (30) days after the scheduled visit.

003.04D Following a review of the report, the Commissioner shall file a recommendation with the Board regarding the application and shall notify the institution of the recommendations. Notification shall be sent by certified mail to the chief academic officer of the institution. The institution shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the recommendation to request an opportunity for a hearing before the Board as provided in Section 008 of this chapter.

003.04E Following a review of the Commissioner's recommendation, and after giving the institution an opportunity for a hearing, if requested, the Board shall exercise one of the following options: (a) approve the institution as a standard institution of higher education, (b) grant it temporary approval for another year, or (c) deny the institution further status as a teacher education program.

003.04F Once the Board has approved the institution as a standard institution of higher education, the institution is subject to the provisions in Section 003.05 of this chapter.