**NCATE Guidelines on Programs to be Submitted**

Unless the terms of the state partnership dictate otherwise, the accreditation process requires preparation of program reports for all professional education programs for which NCATE has approved program standards. As of 2007, NCATE had program standards in the following 21 areas:

* Computer education
* Early childhood education
* Education technology specialist
* Elementary education
* English/language arts education
* Environmental education
* Foreign language education
* Gifted education
* Health education
* Mathematics education
* Middle level education
* Physical Education
* Reading specialists and supervisors
* School administrators
* School library media specialists
* School psychologists
* Science education
* Social studies education
* Special education
* Teaching English to speakers of other languages
* Technology education

**Special Cases:** The following applies to programs that may have difficulty providing appropriate data for the program review.

**Dormant Programs**: If no candidates are in the pipeline and no one has graduated from the program in the past three years, a program report is not required. When the dormant program is reactivated by admitting candidates, a program report may be voluntarily submitted at that time.

**Reactivated Programs**: If a dormant program is reactivated by admitting candidates, the program may voluntarily submit a program report at that point. However, the unit must submit a program report for a reactivated program as part of its scheduled program review cycle whether or not candidates have graduated from the program.

**New Programs**: A unit can voluntarily submit a program report for a new program anytime between on-site visits if the program has been approved by the state. It must submit a program report for the new program as part of its scheduled program review cycle whether or not candidates have graduated from the program.

**Redesigned Programs**: If a program is undergoing a major program redesign, it may request a delay of its submission of the program report. The delay request must be submitted to NCATE with a detailed explanation of the redesign and its timeline. A delay will be granted if the redesign requires major changes in the program and if the appropriate state agency agrees to the delay.

**Small Programs**: In Spring 2010 and Fall 2010, NCATE will defer review of low-enrollment programs, defined as programs with ≤ 5 completers in the last three years (in total). During this year, NCATE staff will work with states, institutions, and SPAs to develop a new strategy for review of these programs that will provide quality assurance but may not lead to SPA recognition. If you have further questions, please contact Margie Crutchfield ([margie@ncate.org](mailto:margie@ncate.org)) or Robin Marion ([robin@ncate.org](mailto:robin@ncate.org)).

**Programs accredited by other accrediting organizations:** NCATE recognizes the following specialized accrediting organizations and, therefore, does not review programs in these areas:

* American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
* American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AACS)
* American Library Association ( ALA)
* American Psychological Association (APA)
* American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
* Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
* National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)
* National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD)
* National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
* National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)

Programs accredited by one of these organizations are not required to be submitted to NCATE for program review. Please see the NCATE [Handbook for Accreditation Visits](http://www.ncate.org/programreview/hbk_contents.asp?ch=15) for information on NCATE requirements for these programs for the unit review.

**Other Cases:**

**Initial Licensure/Post Baccalaureate Programs:** Many secondary post-baccalaureate programs have been developed for candidates who enter the program already having been prepared in the content area; typically candidates enter the program with an undergraduate major in the field. Many of these are MAT programs although in a few institutions these are called MEd programs. Most post-baccalaureate and alternate pathways programs are also designed to prepare candidates who come into the program with appropriate content area preparation. For the purpose of this discussion, these will all be called “Initial Licensure/Post Baccalaureate (IL/PB)” programs. NCATE recently approved a new process for approving these kinds of program, but only those in the secondary content areas: English, math, science, social studies and foreign language. This new process does not include programs in special education, elementary education or other areas. IL/PD programs will be able to combine programs into one secondary education program and submit one report. This report will address a generic set of standards but will include two discipline specific components: an evaluation of discipline-specific content knowledge components (through a transcript analysis) and an evaluation of discipline specific content pedagogy components (in the pedagogical assessments). For full information about this new process, see the document on the NCATE web site on the Program Review Resources page, or contact Margie Crutchfield ([margie@ncate.org](mailto:margie@ncate.org)) or Robin Marion ([robin@ncate.org](mailto:robin@ncate.org)).

**Middle Level Programs:** Middle level programs that prepare candidates in two or more content areas and that meet the NMSA criteria for middle-level programs will submit program reports to NCATE/NMSA. NMSA reviewers will evaluate the submission and make a decision on whether or not the program will be nationally recognized by NMSA. In addition, NMSA reviewers will ensure that the 80% of completers pass the appropriate content test(s). National recognition of this program by NMSA will also be dependent upon the unit having nationally recognized programs in each of the appropriate content areas at the secondary level. NCATE staff will verify the status of the secondary content program areas. Middle level programs could be recognized with conditions by NMSA if secondary content area programs are still in process. For those few middle level programs that do not have secondary preparation programs, 80% of the candidates will still be required to pass the state test in the content area and the state must ensure the adequacy of the content preparation.