



ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

An official record of actions taken by the AAQEP Accreditation Commission

Lenoir-Rhyne University
Teacher Education Program
Hickory, NC
March 2023

ACTION

Based on examination of the case record, including the Quality Assurance Report and the Quality Review Team Report, the AAQEP Accreditation Commission makes the following determination regarding the Teacher Education Program at Lenoir-Rhyne University:

	ACCREDIT - The Accreditation Commission finds that the provider/program meets all AAQEP standards and is accredited for a full term of seven years.
X	ACCREDIT WITH NOTE - The Accreditation Commission finds that the program meets all AAQEP standards and is accredited for a full term of seven years with the notations specified below.
	PROBATIONARY ACCREDITATION - The Accreditation Commission finds that the program meets all AAQEP standards and is accredited for a term of two years, but conditions specified below represent a potential threat to the provider's ability to meet one or more standards.
	DO NOT ACCREDIT - The Accreditation Commission finds that the provider/program does not meet AAQEP standards and does not qualify for accreditation for reasons specified below.

TERM

The accreditation term takes effect immediately and lasts through **December 31, 2029**, or until Lenoir-Rhyne University ceases to be a member in good standing of AAQEP, whichever is earlier. Annual Reports are due by December 31 of each year, with the first report being due December 31, 2024. In addition, please refer to AAQEP's [substantive change policy](#) for guidance on program changes that must be reported.

RATIONALE

The Accreditation Commission evaluated the program's evidence for each AAQEP standard and determined that all four standards are met.

The program prepares teacher candidates to work effectively as professional educators who can adapt to different contexts and continue to grow professionally. An innovative, school-embedded component for undergraduates brings a critical social justice focus and mutual benefit to teacher candidates and the students they tutor in literacy and math. In the MAT program, the online delivery model supports accessibility while effectively fostering candidates' development and sense of belonging.

The institution maintains program quality by attending to evidence of its effectiveness, identifying and prioritizing areas for improvement, and taking focused action. It engages with stakeholders and partners to increase access to quality preparation, diversify the teacher workforce, and strengthen the P-20 education system. The tight-knit community extends to alumni and other practitioners, who benefit from ongoing advising, course modules, and other professional development.

The Commission issued a comment affirming the program's commitment to developing teacher candidates' knowledge, skills, and dispositions for culturally responsive pedagogy.

STANDARDS REPORT

Standard	Met	Not Met
1. Candidate/Completer Performance - Program completers perform as professional educators with the capacity to support success for all students.	X	
2. Completer Professional Competence and Growth - Program completers adapt to working in a variety of contexts and grow as professionals.	X	
3. Quality Program Practices - The program has the capacity to ensure that its completers meet Standards 1 and 2.	X	
4. Program Engagement in System Improvement - Program practices strengthen the P-20 education system in light of local needs and in keeping with the program's mission.	X	

CONCERNS AND CONDITIONS

Concerns are minor problems or shortcomings related to one or more aspects of a standard and must be addressed in the provider's next Annual Report(s). *Conditions* are more significant problems that threaten to undermine one or more of the standards and may result in a shorter accreditation term or require resolution before accreditation takes effect.

Standard	Notation	Remedy and timeline
	No concerns or conditions	

OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Observations offer a perspective or a suggestion that is nonevaluative. *Comments* call attention to a program strength or success that is noteworthy but not so significant or pervasive to warrant citation as a commendation. *Commendations* are awarded when evidence shows outstanding preparation and performance on one or more aspects of a standard or the standard as a whole.

Standard	Notation
1	<p>Comment: The Commission affirms the program's commitment to developing teacher candidates' knowledge, skills, and dispositions for culturally responsive pedagogy.</p> <p>This comment pertains to AAQEP Aspect 1a, which seeks evidence of program completers' content, pedagogical, and/or professional knowledge, and to Aspect 1c, which addresses completers' preparation for culturally responsive practice.</p>

SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

This action for the Teacher Education Program includes the following:

Degree or Certificate granted by the institution or organization	State Certificate, License, Endorsement, or Other Credential
Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education	North Carolina Initial Professional License: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary Education (K-6)
Bachelor of Arts, Secondary Education	North Carolina Initial Professional License: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle Grades Language Arts (6-8) Middle Grades Social Studies (6-8) Secondary Grades English (9-12) Secondary Grades Social Studies (9-12)

Bachelor of Science, Secondary Education	North Carolina Initial Professional License: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle Grades Mathematics (6-8)• Middle Grades Science (6-8)• Secondary Grades Mathematics (9-12)• Secondary Grades Science (9-12)
Master of Arts in Teaching	North Carolina Initial Professional License: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle Grades Language Arts (6-8)• Middle Grades Mathematics (6-8)• Middle Grades Science (6-8)• Middle Grades Social Studies (6-8)• Secondary English (9-12)• Secondary Mathematics (9-12)• Secondary Science (9-12)• Secondary Social Studies (9-12)• Health and Physical Education (K-12)• Music (K-12)• Spanish (K-12)

NOTE: Accreditation actions are based on examination of the case record, including the provider's Quality Assurance Report (self-study) and the Quality Review Team Report. Decisions are the sole responsibility of the AAQEP Accreditation Commission and may not be modified by staff or quality assurance reviewers.