

Item 13:
**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request
to Approve New Class of Certificate at East Texas Baptist
University**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve a request by East Texas Baptist University, an approved and accredited educator preparation program (EPP) located in Marshall to offer the School Counselor class of certificate as part of their certificate inventory. Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff reviewed the proposal request and found that it complied with provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 229, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements, and Chapter 239, School Counselor Certificate.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority related to the approval of new classes of certification is the Texas Education Code, §21.0443 and §21.044.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC approves all new classes of certificates that are offered through an EPP. An EPP must be rated "Accredited" under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs to be eligible to add new classes to program offerings. The EPP prepares an extensive and complete application addressing the SBEC required components of governance, admissions criteria, curriculum, program delivery, and ongoing support, evaluation, professional conduct, complaint process, issuance of certificates, and submission of required data. The proposal is reviewed by several TEA staff members who hold extensive discussions with the applying entity to ensure compliance with the SBEC rules for the certification class being requested. The East Texas Baptist University application meets the minimum requirements for approval by the SBEC.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: Approving a new class of certificate offering will increase the number of certified School Counselors in the state.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the School Counselor class of certificate at East Texas Baptist University as presented.

Staff Members Responsible:

Tam Jones, Director, Educator Preparation
Vanessa Alba, Program Specialist, Educator Preparation

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Classes of Certification
- II. Executive Summary for East Texas Baptist University School Counselor Certification

ATTACHMENT I**Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Classes of Certification****Texas Education Code, §21.0443, Educator Preparation (excerpts):**

- (a) The board shall propose rules to establish standards to govern the approval or renewal of approval of:
 - (1) educator preparation programs; and
 - (2) certification fields authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
- (b) To be eligible for approval or renewal of approval, an educator preparation program must adequately prepare candidates for educator certification and meet the standards and requirements of the board.

Texas Education Code, §21.044, Educator Preparation (excerpt):

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

Attachment II

Executive Summary for the East Texas Baptist University School Counselor Certification

Introduction: East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) requests approval from the State Board for Educator Certification to offer a Master of Education Program for School Counselor Certification. ETBU is in Marshall, Texas. We expect to serve a 50-mile radius from campus. We anticipate having six candidates complete the program each year. The projected start date of the program would be January 2020, and the cost for the 48-hour program would be around \$32,000.00. There is a need in our geographical area to offer face-to-face and online learning environments that incorporate Christian values.

Component 1: Governance of Educator Preparation Programs

The ETBU advisory committee, the University Connection Committee (UCC), meets twice annually to assist in the design, delivery, evaluation, and major policy decisions of the EPP. There are 15 members in which 1 represents colleges/universities in the area; 7 come from public schools, 3 are from a regional education service center, and 5 represent business and community interests. New members are trained for their roles and responsibilities, and additional guidance is provided by the Teacher Education Council (TEC), a committee comprised of university faculty (19 TAC §228).

Component 2: Admission Criteria

Prior to admission, candidates must meet the program admission requirements and sign statements of confidentiality, informed consent regarding coursework and field placement, and an agreement to adhere to the TEC ethical standards. Screening activities to determine the candidates' appropriateness include an on-site essay (15/20 required), an interview (22/28 required), and two recommendation letters. Candidates will submit transcripts indicating at least a 2.75 GPA on their baccalaureate degree (above the state GPA requirement), and an official copy of their teacher service record. Candidates not having two years of creditable teaching experience must complete this requirement prior to applying for the certificate. All candidates must meet English proficiency according to 19 TAC §230.11(b)(5), regardless of where they come from. ETBU reserves the right to suspend a candidate who does not follow TAC Chapter 247 Educator's Code of Ethics.

Component 3: Educator Preparation Curriculum

ETBU's school counselor curriculum is aligned with the school counselor standards (§239.15) to include continuous, intensive instruction and a relevant, standards-based practicum. When new standards become available, realignment of the curriculum will reflect the changes (19 TAC §239.15). Courses and practicum offer authentic learning opportunities for each domain and competency assessed on the state exam. Instructors assess progress toward standards mastery based on satisfactory achievement of coursework, observations, and completion of the school counselor practice exam. Monthly practicum meetings provide additional feedback and support based on behavioral objectives, observations, site supervisor feedback, and rubrics. Assessments include presentations, case studies, form preparation, standards-based practicum observations, exams, recordings, research, portfolio, and papers.

Component 4: Preparation Program Coursework, Delivery & Ongoing Support

The 48-hour program consists of 200 clock hours of coursework and a 160-hour practicum that prepares candidates to understand and implement *The Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs* and can be completed in 2½ years. Structured, field-based training will be

focused on standards-based activities that include experiences with diverse types of students and grade levels (19 TAC §239.15). Faculty-developed courses will be offered face-to-face and online. Progress in online courses is tracked in Canvas, which provides the ability to track candidate time spent on assessments and offers immediate feedback. Quality assurance is monitored by the dean of online learning and the program director. In creating courses, an equivalency table is used to assist in calculating online engagement which parallels face-to-face courses. Online standards for private universities are followed in accordance with 19 TAC §228.35 (a)(6)(D). The curriculum was developed based on the school counselor criterion required for the certificate as described in 19 TAC § 228.35 (a)(6). Technical help is available through an online help feature. Candidates receive mentoring from site supervisors and the field supervisor, who makes initial contact with candidates within three weeks of assignment and conducts three formal observations that include a pre- and post-observation conference with feedback for each. Field supervisors will receive state supervision training [19 TAC §228.35(g)] prior to assuming a supervisory role. Supervisors support candidates face-to-face, by telephone, or through email and report progress to the EPP [19 TAC§228.2(30)].

Component 5: Assessment & Evaluation of Candidates & Program

Candidates must maintain an overall 2.75 GPA and demonstrate satisfactory progress on all evaluations. An annual evaluation of the program and curriculum includes data from course evaluations, program evaluations, observation forms, and passing the TExES school counselor exam on the first attempt. The program director is responsible for evaluating the data and assessing program quality. Based on the findings, recommendations and changes needed in policy, program design, or delivery are implemented as approved by the TEC advisory committee. Candidates meet with their advisor each semester to review progress and benchmarks. The university reserves the right to suspend any candidate who does not maintain a satisfactory academic standing, fails to follow the ethical standards, or does not conform to university or program requirements. Candidate records are kept for 5 years after program completion or withdrawing from the program.

Component 6: Professional Conduct

The Texas Educator's Code of Ethics is introduced in EDSC 6306. The TEA Code of Ethics training modules are incorporated into requirements for candidate coursework. Additionally, the Texas Code of Ethics information is provided in the candidate handbook. All candidates and program staff will sign an acknowledgment that they have read, understand, and will adhere to the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics. The training link is provided to professors, EPP, and staff.

Component 7: Complaints Process

The complaints process is posted on the ETBU website and in the student handbook. We encourage the resolution of complaints at the lowest level possible. If this is not possible, a formal written complaint is submitted to the Dean's office. Within 10 working days, a meeting will be set up with the involved parties. If a satisfactory resolution is not obtained, the complaint may be elevated to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for further resolution. If necessary, a special committee shall be appointed to investigate the complaint. Within 30 days, the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will render its decision to the involved parties in writing. All parties have the option of proceeding directly to TEA.

Component 8: Issuance of Certificates

Issuance of the Standard School Counselor Certificate is based on meeting all university and program requirements, successfully completing the 48-hour M.Ed. preparation program that meets the requirements of 19 TAC §239.20, successfully completing the TExES examination, and having two creditable years of classroom teaching experience. No teaching certificate is

required. No probationary certificates will be issued. The School of Education assures that the program will follow all rules pertaining to the issuance of certificates as outlined in 19 TAC §239.20.