

## Item 10:

### Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve a New Class of Certificate at Southern Methodist University

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve a request by Southern Methodist University (SMU), an approved educator preparation program (EPP), located in Dallas, Texas, to offer the Educational Diagnostician class of certificate in the post-baccalaureate route as part of their certificate inventory. Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff reviewed the proposal 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, Student Services Certificates, Subchapter C, Educational Diagnostician Certificate.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority related to the approval of educator preparation programs are the Texas Education Code, §21.0443 and §21.044.

The full text of statutory citations can be found in the statutory authority section of this agenda.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon SBEC approval with enrollments to begin Fall 2023.

**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 identified in the chart below. 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 SMU application meets the minimum requirements for approval by the SBEC to offer the Educational Diagnostician class of certificate in the post-baccalaureate route.

<b>SBEC-Required Components</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Component Description</b>
<b>1. Governance</b> (19 TAC §228.20)	Pertaining to the EPP’s advisory committee functions, responsibilities, and program amendments.
<b>2. Admission</b> (19 TAC §227.10)	Pertaining to admission criteria required of all applicants seeking initial certification in any class of certificate.
<b>3. Educator Preparation Curriculum</b> (19 TAC §228.30)	Pertaining to standards-based curriculum required of all candidates seeking certification.

<b>4. Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training</b> (19 TAC §228.35)	Pertaining to how the educator preparation program prepares candidates for educator certification and to ensure they are effective in the educator assignment.
<b>5. Assessment and Evaluation of Candidates for Certification and Program Improvement</b> (19 TAC §228.40)	<p>Pertaining to how the EPP has established benchmarks and structured assessments of a candidate's progress throughout the EPP.</p> <p>Pertaining to how the EPP continuously evaluates the design and delivery of the EPP components based on performance data, scientifically based research practices, and the results of internal and external feedback and assessments.</p>
<b>6. Professional Conduct</b> (19 TAC §228.50)	Pertaining to how the educator preparation program ensures that the individuals preparing candidates and the candidates themselves understand and adhere to Chapter 247 relating to the Educators' Code of Ethics.
<b>7. Complaints and Investigations Procedures</b> (19 TAC §228.70)	Pertaining to the EPP's responsibilities for maintaining a process through which a candidate or former candidate in an EPP, an applicant for candidacy in an EPP, an employee or former employee of an EPP, a cooperating teacher, a mentor, a site supervisor, or an administrator in a public or private school that serves as a site for practicum experiences may submit a complaint about an EPP for investigation and resolution.
<b>8. Certification Procedures</b> (19 TAC §§230.36, 230.37, and 230.31)	Pertaining to the requirements for the issuance of certificates.
<b>9. Required Submission of Information, Surveys, and Other Data</b> (19 TAC §229.3)	Pertaining to all data and information an educator preparation program must submit to TEA.
<b>10. Proactive instructional planning techniques throughout the coursework for candidates and across content areas and inclusive practices for all students, including students with disabilities, throughout coursework and</b>	Pertaining to coursework and training provided to candidates on proactive instructional planning techniques and inclusive practices for teaching all students, including students with disabilities.

<b>clinical experience for candidates</b> (TEC §21.0443(b)(1) and (2))	
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In addition to the table above that outlines the minimum components for approval, the attachment includes an executive summary that provides additional information about the program and how the proposed new class meets or exceeds the SBEC's minimum requirements.

Representatives from SMU will attend the July 2023 SBEC meeting and will address the Board's questions related to their application as needed.

**Certification Class Requested:** Educational Diagnostician

**Anticipated Enrollment Start Date:** Upon approval by the SBEC for Fall 2023

**Anticipated Number of Educators for the First Year:** 15

**Cost of the Program per Participant:** \$28,000

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** The addition of this new certification class offered by Southern Methodist University (SMU) will increase the number of qualified educational diagnosticians in Texas.

**ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Southern Methodist University (SMU) application to offer the Educational Diagnostician certificate class in the post-baccalaureate route as presented.

**Staff Members Responsible:**

Lorrie Ayers, Director of EPP Management  
 Linda Mott, Education Specialist, Educator Preparation

**Attachment:**

Executive Summary for SMU, Educational Diagnostician Certificate Class

## ATTACHMENT

### Executive Summary for Southern Methodist University, Educational Diagnostician Certificate Class

#### Introduction

Southern Methodist University (057502) is requesting approval to offer the Educational Diagnostician certificate class. Southern Methodist University (SMU), located in Dallas, TX, will prepare post baccalaureate students for certification in the Educational Diagnostician certificate class. We anticipate 15 students certified per year. The anticipated start date will be Fall 2023. The estimated cost for a complete post baccalaureate master's degree with certification is \$28,000.

#### Component 1: Governance of Educator Preparation Programs

The charge of the SMU Simmons Educator Preparation Program Advisory Council is to discuss the design, delivery, evaluation, and major policy decisions for all certification classes of the educator preparation program at Southern Methodist University. In accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20, the Council plays an integral role in the accreditation and review process of the Simmons School and its educator certification program. Meetings are held at least once a year. Members include SMU Program Directors, Certification Officers, and School and Community Partners. Fifteen members are associated with local school districts including Region 10 administration, district board members, superintendents, school administration, and teachers. Two members are community partners from Teach for America and Raise Your Hand Texas. Membership nomination is by the Simmons Educator Preparation Program Directors.

#### Component 2: Admission Criteria

Students admitted into the program must have a bachelor's degree, at minimum, from an accredited institution, a 3.0 GPA or higher on their undergraduate degree as verified by official university transcripts, and a valid teacher certificate. They are to have met the minimum in TSI as a demonstration of basic skills, or if from out-of-state, demonstrated proficiency through completed university coursework. Applicants answer interview questions that are screened by two reviewers for knowledge, skills, and aptitude for Educational Diagnostician. International applicants who do not have a degree from an English-speaking institution must have a TOEFL score of a minimum score of 26 for speaking, 22 for listening, 22 for reading, and 21 for writing. International applicants are to have their transcripts evaluated by an SMU recognized evaluation agency. All international applicants are to follow protocol and submit required documentation as advised by SMU International Student Services.

#### Component 3: Educator Preparation Curriculum

The Educational Diagnostician EC-12 educator standards will be incorporated into the coursework throughout the program. In every class we have aligned learning objectives with the Educational Standards. The curriculum is based on the standards and buoyed by the latest research in the field via peer reviewed articles and recent conference presentations. The objectives are then aligned with assignments such as assessment administration, case reporting, exams, presentations, and projects that all have rubrics provided to check for understanding and mastery of the content. Students will have to master the benchmark standards in each class to pass to the next class. Students that have not mastered the course will be asked to retake the class or exit the program. The Director of the program, in conjunction with the special education/Literacy committee and SMU accreditation working group

for the whole school will review materials and oversee that alignment continues if there are changes to the standards.

**Component 4: Preparation Program Coursework, Delivery & Ongoing Support**

The coursework for this program will be primarily face to face with a few classes taught in a hybrid format. The program will be 36 hours or 12 three-hour courses. Each three-hour course requires 45 hours of face to face and six hours of outside time per week. The practicum course will require students to demonstrate 160 hours of proficiency in the Educational Diagnostician domains and standards. During the practicum course students will have an assigned site and field supervisor.

**Component 5: Assessment & Evaluation of Candidates & Program**

Our coursework incorporates all the standards. Assessment will be exams, observation of test and test administrations. The final mastery will be demonstrated in the 160-hour practicum work. Through our annual program evaluation process, we will set goals for programmatic updates and changes and evaluate the program annually. During our annual meeting with the advisory committee, we will present our program and evaluation data and request feedback and support for any programmatic recommendations or changes.

**Component 6: Professional Conduct**

All program staff read and sign an agreement to abide by the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics. Signed attestations are kept in EPP program files. All candidates read the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics and sign an attestation that they have read and understand the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics when they enter the program.

**Component 7: Complaints Process**

The complaint process is physically posted in the lobby of the building where courses are taken, posted on the Department of Teaching and Learning EPP webpage as well as in the student handbook. The communicated procedures concern complaints against SMU Educator Preparation Program, Pearson Testing Services and State Board for Educator Certification of Texas. In order to file a complaint, one must be in accordance with 19 TAC §228.70(b)(4) concerning Complaints and Investigations. No matter the nature of the complaint, the first step is to contact the Director of the Educational Diagnostician Program. The Director may request that complaint be submitted in writing.

**Component 8: Issuance of Certificates**

For issuance of an intern or probationary certificate, candidates are to have successfully completed all required coursework prior to practicum, passed the TExES test, and a valid teaching certificate. A Statement of Eligibility (SOE) form will be completed by the candidate, the EPP, and the employing school prior to issuance of the certificate and will be retained in the candidate's file. A benchmark form will be kept in the candidate's file indicating status of requirements for certification. An SMU EPP certification officer will maintain the form and will recommend certification after verifying all requirements are completed. For issuance of a standard certificate, candidates are to have successfully completed all required coursework and practicum, passed the TExES test, a valid teaching certificate, submitted to the EPP official record of three years of teacher service, at minimum, and a Master's degree.

**Component 9: Data Reporting**

Prior to September 15 for each reporting year the SMU EPP will ensure all required data of applicants, admitted candidates, observations, and identified completers will be uploaded to the TEA ASEP system. The demographic data of those who applied will be submitted to TEA. The

TEA ASEP Finisher List will be updated to reflect those who completed the program during the reporting year. Those who discontinued the program prior to completion will be removed from the TEA ASEP system.

**Component 10: Proactive Instructional Planning**

We have embedded proactive instructional planning techniques throughout the course work for candidates and across content areas and inclusive practices for all students. Candidates will demonstrate the ability to design and lead instructional planning and support teacher instruction for students of diverse learning needs by identifying students who have specific needs. Candidates will share and reflect about current best practices learned in their classroom and provide support for the students' teachers. In particular, these activities can be seen in EDU 6389 Intensive Interventions and EDU 6372 Practicum.