



Compliance Audit Report Summer of 2009 Southwestern Assemblies of God University Initial Teacher Certification Program

According to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.10(c), "An entity approved by the SBEC under this chapter...shall be reviewed at least once every five years under procedures approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff; however, a review may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the TEA staff." Per TAC §228.1(c), "All educator preparation programs are subject to the same standards of accountability, as required under Chapter 229 of this title." The Texas Education Agency administers Texas Administrative Code rules required by the Texas legislature for the regulation of all educator preparation programs in the state. Please see the complete Texas Administrative Code at www.tea.state.tx.us for details.

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Program Specialist, Mary Black, conducted a Texas Education Agency Compliance Desk Audit of Southwestern Assemblies of God University. The focus of the compliance audit was the initial teacher certification program. The following are findings and recommendations for program improvement.

SCOPE OF THE COMPLIANCE AUDIT:

The scope of the audit was restricted solely to verifying compliance with Texas Administrative Code §227, §228, §229,

Data Analysis:

Information concerning compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) governing educator preparation programs was collected by various qualitative means. A self-report was submitted to the Texas Education Agency via Survey Monkey along with requested verifying documents. Because student records contain confidential information and could not be transmitted to TEA, student records were checked by the program using a check list supplied by TEA. In addition, electronic questionnaires developed by TEA were sent to Southwestern Assemblies of God University stakeholders. Fifth-two (52) stakeholders responded to the questionnaires: Three (3) advisory committee members; twelve (12) student teachers, clinical teachers, interns; four (4) field supervisors; two (2) principals; and eleven (11) cooperating teachers/mentors responded. Qualitative and quantitative methodologies of content analysis, cross-referencing,

and triangulation of the data were used to evaluate the evidence. Evidence of compliance was measured using a rubric aligned with Texas Administrative Code. After the review of the information, the program specialist arranged a telephone debrief to cover the findings of the audit. The findings were incorporated into the original survey monkey form and sent to the program. This summary report provides the findings and recommendations resulting from the audit.

COMPONENT I: Governance of Educator Preparation Programs- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20

FINDINGS:

Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with all rules regarding the Advisory Committee (AC) and governance of the program. This Advisory Committee has been active for 19 years according to the self-report and discussion with the Dean on July 16, 2009. The AC is engaged in policy decisions, planning and evaluation of the program. Surveys from three members of the AC and three program staff confirm that the AC meets twice per year. Minutes and agendas were reviewed during the document review by TEA program specialists. The three AC surveys received by TEA indicated that some members of the committee are unclear about the total number of students in the program, the total numbers of hours required by the program, admissions criteria, and the reading and ethics curriculum. All indicated very good collaboration with public schools.

Based on the evidence presented, Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code §228.20 – Governance of Educator Preparation Programs.

COMPONENT II: ADMISSION CRITERIA - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §227.10

FINDINGS:

Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) requires a 2.75 GPA for admission to the educator preparation program. A score of 260 on the THEA Reading exam is also required. SAGU meets or exceeds all Texas Administrative Code requirements regarding admissions.

Based on the evidence presented, Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with TAC §227 - Admission Criteria.

COMPONENT III: CURRICULUM - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.30

FINDINGS:

Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) meets all standards for curriculum required in TAC §228.30. Eleven of the 16 faculty surveys received by TEA described innovative uses of technology in instruction. Besides teaching basic software, surveys indicated that faculty model

technology integration through curriculum design and multimedia. Technology is embedded in each course, including using electronic databases for research, media elements for presentations and instruction, music lab software, Smartboards, Promethean boards, electronic portfolios, web-based simulations for science, video cameras, and local school district technology, among others. Online courses meet ADA requirements. The Literacy lab provides opportunities for candidates to work with children directly and also to evaluate and use the TPRI in conjunction with the lab. Learning about special populations is applied in each lesson plan developed by candidates, which must include modifications for special needs students and gifted and talented.

Based on evidence presented, Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code Section §228.30 – Educator Preparation Curriculum.

COMPONENT IV: Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training (TAC) §228.35

FINDINGS:

Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) is in compliance with all TAC requirements for program delivery and support. 100 or more hours of field-based experience are required by the program, which correlates positively with beginning teacher satisfaction and retention. SAGU trains all cooperating teachers that participate with the program. This was confirmed by 11 surveys from Cooperating Teachers received by TEA. Field Supervisors generally are assigned only 4-6 candidates per semester. All four field supervisor surveys received by TEA indicated that initial contact was made within the first three weeks, the first observation made within the first six weeks, and written feedback was provided to candidates. Surveys also reported that observations were 45 minutes or more. Two of the 12 surveys from candidates received by TEA indicated dissatisfaction with Field Supervisors. One complained that the Field Supervisor was difficult to reach and did not attend meetings as scheduled; nor did this Field Supervisor have experience in the particular certification field. The other candidate stated that he/she was never assigned a Field Supervisor by the University. This person claimed he/she was never observed by anyone from the university, and instead observations by school administrators were used. This person was in a masters' degree program, but even candidates in professional certification fields must have program field supervision, according to TEA interpretation TAC rules §228.35 (f) and §241.10 (b). SAGU is encouraged to review their professional certification program to insure adequate field supervision in that area.

Based on evidence presented, Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code Section §228.35 – Program Delivery and On-Going Support.

COMPONENT V: Assessment and Evaluation of Candidates for Certification and Program Improvement – Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.40

FINDINGS:

Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) reviews curriculum and the overall educator preparation program annually, involving numerous stakeholders, including the Advisory Committee. Multiple sources of data are used to evaluate curriculum and program results. SAGU is in compliance with all requirements for program evaluation. SAGU is also in compliance with requirements for assessing all candidates.

Based on evidence presented, Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code §228.40 – Assessment and Evaluation of Candidates for Certification and Program Improvement.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Program Compliance Recommendations are based on the findings of the Texas Education Agency compliance audit. If the program is out of compliance with any component, please consult the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and correct the issue IMMEDIATELY. General Recommendations are suggestions for program improvement only.

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE RECOMMENDATIONS: In order to meet requirements of Texas Administrative Code governing educator preparation programs, the following recommendations must be implemented immediately:

Southwestern Assemblies of God University is in compliance with all TAC rules governing educator preparation programs.

OTHER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

None at this time.