



## Compliance Audit Report 2009-2010 Texas Tech University

According to 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 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 rules at [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) for details contained in each rule.

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Texas Education Agency (TEA) program specialists, Mixon Henry and Mary Black, conducted a compliance audit on November 5-6, 2009. The following are the findings and recommendations for program improvement.

Date Self-Report Submitted: October 8, 2009

Information concerning compliance with Texas Administrative Code rules governing educator preparation programs was collected by various qualitative means. A review of documents, syllabi, and curriculum correlation charts provided evidence regarding compliance. In addition electronic surveys were sent to Texas Tech University participants by TEA. A total of two hundred Ninety responses to the surveys were received by TEA, including thirty-seven from interns, twenty-nine from field supervisors, thirty-six from school principals, one hundred eight from campus mentors/cooperating teachers, and twenty-seven from advisory committee members. A self-report was submitted to TEA by Texas Tech University. Qualitative methods of content analysis, cross-referencing, and triangulation were used to evaluate the evidence.

### **COMPONENT I: COMMITMENT AND COLLABORATION - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20 – GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

#### **Findings:**

Texas Tech University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Section 228.20 - Governance of Educator Preparation Programs. The Advisory Committee incorporates 3 out of 4 of the suggested membership groups. Texas Tech University also includes a student representative, providing another point of view. The Advisory Committee met six times during this last year. Sign-in sheets, meeting agendas, and minutes document the meetings. Collaboration is noted with the effort during the NCATE accreditation process.

**Based on the evidence presented above, Texas Tech University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20 – GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.**

**Commendations:**

Commendation for having a student on the Advisory Committee: This is a significant component which adds an alternative view point not shared by other members. Few programs seek student input on the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee had six meetings during the past academic year, demonstrating a willingness to work toward a strong program. Input by the Advisory Committee is also demonstrated by recent recommendations to further address special needs populations, assessments, and plans for EC-6 certification.

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

**Findings:**

Texas Tech University is in compliance with TAC rule 227.10 Admission Criteria. Texas Tech University's criteria for admissions are as follows: • Completed application, • GPA is 2.5 or better, with elementary candidates needing 2.70, • Satisfactory test scores on THEA or comparable tests (Accuplacer and SAT), and • Interview with staff. Recruitment for program is addressed by website, advisory committee, school and community visits, and brochures.

**Based on the evidence presented above, Texas Tech University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.10 – Admission Criteria.**

**Commendations:**

Texas Tech University is commended for requiring higher GPA for elementary candidates and using the pre-screening tests (THEA, Accuplacer, and SAT).

**COMPONENT III. CURRICULUM - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.30 - EDUCATOR PREPARATION CURRICULUM**

**Findings:**

Texas Tech University is in compliance with TAC rule 228.30. Instructors have advanced degrees, Texas or Out of State teaching certificates, and public school experience. The curriculum covers the required 17 items of the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibility. The curriculum and associated materials were well organized and demonstrate the TTU Department of Education's awareness of how the 17 PPR items are embedded within the curriculum and continue to spiral through each of the courses. Syllabi for each of the courses include objectives, standards, and assessments to denote the progress of the candidates throughout

the coursework. Technology is addressed in 17 different manners to expand candidates' knowledge of technology and their options to implement in lessons. Feedback from candidates through electronic questionnaires revealed improvements needed in the following curriculum areas: motivating students, administering TAKS examinations, assessments to diagnose student learning needs, students with educational needs, and conducting parent/teacher conferences.

**Based on the evidence presented above, Texas Tech University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.30 – EDUCATOR PREPARATION CURRICULUM.**

**Commendations:**

Texas Tech University has well conceived and formatted syllabi. The syllabi are well organized with clear objectives, standards, and assessments. Instructors have strong academic backgrounds and experience in a school setting. The PPR and test preparation are clearly embedded in the curriculum and are cyclical to assist in the review and recall of information for successful testing.

**COMPONENT IV. PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ONGOING SUPPORT – Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 228.35 – PREPARATION PROGRAM COURSEWORK AND/OR TRAINING**

**Findings:**

Texas Tech University is in compliance with TAC rule 228.35. Texas Tech's field experience component exceeds the state requirement of 30 clock hours; elementary school candidates accumulate 100+ clock hours, middle school candidates accumulate 94+ clock hours, and secondary candidates accumulate 30+ clock hours. The training and coursework exceed the state requirement of 300 clock hours; elementary school candidates amass 540 clock hours, middle school amass 409 clock hours, and secondary candidates amass 315 clock hours. Training of mentors and cooperating teachers is provided by Texas Tech University and local school districts. Field Supervisors' qualifications include the following: experienced professional educator currently certified in Texas, former administrator, university faculty, and a minimum of five years teaching experience. Training of the Field Supervisors is accomplished by TxBESS, coaching techniques, mentoring methods, orientation to field experience instruction, student teaching, and handbook review. Student Teachers' questionnaires revealed 100% satisfaction with their Field Supervisors. Students are allowed unrestricted first-time testing (TExES) but unsuccessful test takers are required remediation and tutorial sessions prior to receiving test a second recommendation for testing. Student records are well organized and kept in secured cabinets in locked offices and other documentation is kept electronically. The student teaching observations are stored electronically on unique software that displays the categories and anecdotal comments. Observations of student teachers are performed three or more times during a semester with written feedback and conferencing. Education staff and advisors guide

the candidates through the requirements with face-to-face meetings and direct contact to simplify the process.

**Based on the evidence presented above, Texas Tech University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.35 – PREPARATION PROGRAM COURSEWORK AND/OR TRAINING**

**Commendations:**

Field base coursework and experiences are above required amounts required by TEA and provide unique insight to classroom dynamics. Students' records are well organized and assist in tracking the progress of the educator through the program. In addition, coursework and field experience opportunities in special education through Project Ideal and the center for visual and hearing impairment add significantly to teacher preparation

**COMPONENT V. PROGRAM EVALUATION - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.40 - ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATION AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.**

**Findings:**

Texas Tech University is in compliance with TAC rule 228.40. Evaluation of the program is completed by all members of the program including the following: Dean/Director, faculty, Advisory Committee, campus administrators, cooperating teachers, student teachers, and HR directors of local schools districts. Data and analysis of program evaluation is compiled in Texas Tech's TracDat system annually for system accountability. The data includes ASEP data, qualitative evaluations from candidates, campus administrators, faculty, cooperating teachers, program staff, field supervisors, and student retention information. Curriculum is evaluated by candidates, ASEP data, and Advisory Committee. Program evaluation is completed annually. NCATE preparation and reporting provided another manner of feedback for the program. The evaluation process has been improved and enhanced by the work of Dr. Larry Hovey.

**Based on the evidence presented above, Texas Tech University is in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.40 – ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATION AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.**

**Commendations:**

The qualitative feedback instrument used by Texas Tech provides excellent input to critique the program. Following the gathering of data from surveys, ASEP data, and other sources, the information is evaluated by program staff, instructors, and the Advisory Committee. This multi-group evaluation process creates more input and provides a wide range of feedback to assist in improving the program.

## PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

The following are recommendations based on the findings of the Texas Education Agency Compliance Audit. If the program is NOT in compliance with any component, please consult the Texas Administrative Code and initiate actions to correct the issue IMMEDIATELY. A Compliance Status Report will be required in sixty days on compliance recommendations.

General program recommendations are suggestions for general program improvement and do not require follow-up.

### **PROGRAM COMPLIANCE RECOMMENDATIONS: A Progress Report will be required in one year.**

No recommendations at this time. Texas Tech University educator preparation is in compliance in all areas governed by Texas Administrative Code.

### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: No progress report is necessary.**

None at this time.

Reformatted from the Survey Monkey report on 1/17/2013 in order to post on Consumer Information.