

## **Accreditation 2007 FAQ**

### **1. Why is it titled Accreditation 2007?**

The Professional Education Programs, those programs leading to licensure by the NC Department of Public Instruction, at Western Carolina University will have an onsite review by two accreditation agencies in Fall 2007:

NCDPI – The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will have a team conducting a review of all licensure programs called a Program Approval Visit.

NCATE – The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education will have a team conducting a continuing accreditation visit of the professional education program.

### **2. When will the onsite review occur?**

Both teams, NCATE and NCDPI, will be on campus November 3-7, 2007.

### **3. How many persons will be on campus?**

The NCATE team, called the Board of Examiners or BOE, is expected to have approximately seven (7) team members, all from outside North Carolina. The NCDPI team is expected to have 20-25 team members from North Carolina. Team members for both teams are education professionals such as university faculty and P-12 practitioners who have been recommended to serve on visitation teams and have completed at least three days of accreditation training. Many team members will have prior experience serving on accreditation teams.

### **4. What will the teams do while on campus?**

The visitation teams will review documents, conduct interviews, and observe classes, field experience sites, and meetings. They will meet together and write visitation reports/recommendations regarding continued accreditation.

### **5. Why are there two teams? Do they do the same thing?**

In North Carolina, the DPI team members look at every licensure program and make recommendations regarding every program at every degree level (e.g., elementary undergraduate and graduate; school administration master's level, EdS level, and EdD level). Typically, there is one team member for every area, so there are reports for every program.

The NCATE team looks at the professional education unit as a whole and writes one report. They will rely to a large extent on the NCDPI team to provide information about knowledge and skills of candidates (our students).

Although the teams share information, they operate separately and will occupy separate workrooms although members from both teams will attend group interviews.

#### **6. Who will the teams interview?**

Team members will interview students (candidates), faculty, administrators, and P-12 partners. Groups will be scheduled such as the following: Professional Education Council, cooperating teachers, interns, CEAP Curriculum Committee, program coordinators, superintendents in the area, Arts and Sciences teacher education faculty, etc.

#### **7. How will the teams interview candidates and others who are taking courses through distance learning?**

Team members may travel to some distance learning sites to interview faculty, candidates, and P-12 professionals. They may interview groups and individuals through interactive video. Team members may participate in scheduled online chats. Some candidates, faculty, and P-12 professionals may be asked to travel to campus during the visit.

#### **8. How will Western Carolina University prepare for the visit?**

Western Carolina University will collect documents and write reports for the teams before they arrive demonstrating how the professional education programs meet the required standards. The report to be submitted to NCATE is called the Institutional Report (IR) and is no more than 100 pages. The reports submitted to NCDPI are called Specialty Area Reports (SAR) and have no page limits. At other institutions where visits have been completed, the page range for SARs has been variable.

Documents including student work, summaries of assessment data, policies and procedures, syllabi, vita, and faculty publications will be collected, organized, and available for team members. Some documents and exhibits will be online.

#### **9. What standards do the programs address?**

The NCATE standards are available at: <http://www.ncate.org/public/standards.asp>

The NCDPI standards are available at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/humansrcs/> under North Carolina Program Approval Standards.

#### **10. When will the required reports be written and the exhibits and documents be collected?**

The reports will be written during the 2006-2007 academic year and all materials will be finalized before August 30, 2007.