

# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING UPCOMING REVIEW AND ACTIONS RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARD II



## OPEN COMMENT ON CHANGES TO PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

The U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the public have all voiced recent concerns with consumer protection and assurance of quality outcomes in higher education, and the transparent reporting of those outcomes by institutions and accreditors. As such, the CAATE is accountable to ensure that the programs they accredit are achieving suitable minimum programmatic outcomes. For these reasons, the Commission set a Standard (professional Standard 11) requiring a minimum three-year aggregate first-time BOC exam pass rate of 70%. Notification of this Standard was released in the summer of 2012 and programs were notified that they must be compliant with the Standard by July 1, 2013. In March of 2014, the Commission announced that, at its February 2016 meeting, it would consider probationary action for professional programs not in compliance with Standard 11.

In an effort to be transparent with our stakeholder programs, the Commission has developed the following decision making algorithm that will be used in considering accreditation actions related to Standard 11.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The 3-year aggregate first time pass rate and resulting accreditation actions are only evaluated by the CAATE once each calendar year, after all BOC exams for the year have been completed.

- Exam data are typically received by the Commission and uploaded to e-accreditation in December.
- After the Commission reviews the pass rate data for completeness and to ensure that students have been matched to their respective exam data by the programs, the pass rates are posted publicly on the CAATE website. This typically occurs in January.
- Pass rate review and accreditation actions are subsequently made at the Commission's winter meeting in February. (i.e. 2013-15 exam data will be reviewed in February 2016.)

If the CAATE moves to withdraw accreditation, or if a program voluntarily withdraws their accreditation, the program may not submit intent to start a new program for a minimum of two years. This allows the program a minimum of one-year of evaluation and planning and one-year for completing the self-study in preparation for a comprehensive review.

### **ACTIONS AT FEBRUARY 2016 CAATE MEETING:**

All programs with a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 70% are non-compliant with Standard 11 and will be placed on Probation. Programs placed on Probation for non-compliance with Standard 11 will be required to complete both an *analytic progress report* and an *action plan*. The *analytic progress report* and the *action plan* must both be submitted on or before June 1st.

The *analytic progress report* must include:

1. A review and analysis of the program's previously submitted action plans. This should include:
  - a. Any assessment data used to evaluate the previous action plan.
  - b. A discussion of which strategies have worked and which ones have not.
  - c. Any revisions that have been made to the previous action plan based on subsequent assessment data.
2. Analysis of the program's current pass-rate (2013-15 data) and progress toward compliance, including the:
  - a. number of students enrolled in the program in each of the past 3 years;
  - b. number of students who have attempted the exam in each of the past 3 years;
  - c. cohort by cohort first-time pass rate for each of the past 3 exam cohorts;
  - d. 3 year aggregate first-time pass rate for each of the past 3 years;
3. Projection for the program's anticipated exam outcomes for next year (2016 data). This is an analysis of how well the program believes its new action plan (see below) will improve exam performance for the next exam cohort and how they expect this to affect their 3-year aggregate first time pass rate next year. The analysis must include:
  - a. An analysis of the number of students expected to take the exam in the next year based on current enrollment.
  - b. A conservative estimated annual first time pass rate for the upcoming year given steps outlined in the *action plan* (see below) and current student potential.
  - c. A conservative estimated 3-year aggregate first time pass rate for the upcoming year based on the projection provided in 3.b above.
  - d. A narrative discussing the likelihood that the program will come into compliance with Standard 11 in the next year given the data provided in 3.a-c above.

The *action plan*, developed as part of the *analytic progress report*, must include all of the elements identified in Standard 13. These include:

1. Developing targeted goals and action plans for achieve the desired outcomes.
2. Stating the timelines for reaching the outcomes.
3. Identifying the person(s) responsible for each element of the action plan.
4. Updating the elements of the action plan as they are met or circumstances change.

### **ACTIONS AT FEBRUARY 2017 CAATE MEETING:**

Programs that are not already on Probation for Standard 11 and that have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 70% are not compliant with Standard 11 and will be placed on PROBATION. They will be required to complete both an *analytic progress report* and an *action plan*. The *analytic progress report* and *action plan* must both be submitted on or before June 1st.

Programs that are already on Probation for Standard 11 and that now have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate of 70% or above are now compliant with Standard 11. They will be REMOVED FROM PROBATION.

Programs that are already on Probation for Standard 11 and that have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 50% remain in non-compliance with Standard 11. The CAATE will move to WITHDRAW THEIR ACCREDITATION.

Programs that have been on Probation for Standard 11 for a single year and that continue to have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 70% but above 50% remain in non-compliance with Standard 11. They will remain on PROBATION and be required to complete another *analytic progress report* and *action plan*. The *analytic progress report* and *action plan* must both be submitted on or before June 1st.

### **ACTIONS AT FEBRUARY 2018 CAATE MEETING:**

Programs that are not already on Probation for Standard 11 and that have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 70% are not compliant with Standard 11. They will be placed on PROBATION and be required to complete both an *analytic progress report* and an *action plan*. The *analytic progress report* and *action plan* must both be submitted on or before June 1st.

Programs that are already on Probation for Standard 11 and that now have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate of 70% or above are now compliant with Standard 11. They will be REMOVED FROM PROBATION.

Programs that are already on Probation for Standard 11 and that have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 50% remain in non-compliance with Standard 11. The CAATE will move to WITHDRAW THEIR ACCREDITATION.

Programs that have been on Probation for Standard 11 for a single year and that continue to have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 70% but above 50% remain in non-compliance with Standard 11. They will remain on PROBATION and be required to complete another *analytic progress report* and *action plan*. The *analytic progress report* and *action plan* must both be submitted on or before June 1st.

Programs that have been on Probation for Standard 11 for more than a single year and that continue to have a 3-year aggregate first time pass rate below 70% remain in non-compliance with Standard 11. The Commission will review these programs individually and may move to continue PROBATION, have the program SHOW CAUSE, or to WITHDRAW THE PROGRAM'S ACCREDITATION. In taking action, the Commission will consider factors such as the program's current and historical pass rates, plan(s) of action, likelihood of coming into compliance, annual report data, and history of previous accreditation actions.

STANDARD II ACCREDITATION ACTION FLOW CHART

