

CSU Bakersfield Earns National Accreditation of Educator Preparation Programs

(March 2023, Bakersfield, CA) – The [Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation](#) (AAQEP) has awarded full 7-year accreditation to the educator preparation programs at California State University, Bakersfield.



After reviewing the evidence collected through a process of self-study and peer review, the AAQEP Accreditation Commission issued decisions at its March 10 meeting affirming that the institution’s teacher education, leadership, and counseling preparation programs meet all four AAQEP standards.

In its decisions, the Commission noted the programs’ strong institutional support and community ties as well as the quality of professional preparation they provide.

“The program elevates education on a local level and meets workforce needs by expanding educational opportunities in the region,” states the rationale for one of the decisions.

“Candidates engage in research-grounded work in real-world settings, and completers are prepared to effectively support teaching and learning, adapt to different contexts, and continue to grow professionally.”

The institution actively maintains program quality through a process of self-study and evidence-based revisions to better serve its students and the needs of community partners. “A deep community awareness and interconnectedness are a throughline in the programs’ work as they engage with stakeholders and partners to strengthen both their own offerings and the broader education system,” the Commission noted.

“Congratulations to CSU Bakersfield and to all of the faculty, staff, and stakeholders who have achieved their goal of national accreditation by AAQEP,” said AAQEP President and CEO Mark LaCelle-Peterson. “The university plays a unique role in its community and provides a wide range of needed and respected programs that address community needs and provide avenues to social mobility throughout its region.”

National accreditation assures the quality of professional preparation programs through a nongovernmental, nonregulatory process of self-study and peer review. This standards- and evidence-based process serves two broad aims: accountability and continuous improvement. The AAQEP model is also designed to honor local context and foster innovation and collaboration among institutions. AAQEP currently has members in 33 states and other jurisdictions with over 180 educator preparation providers participating in the accreditation system.

About AAQEP

Founded in 2017, AAQEP is a membership association and quality assurance agency that provides accreditation services and formative support to all types of educator preparation providers. The organization promotes excellent, effective, and innovative educator preparation that is committed to evidence-based improvement in a collaborative professional environment. AAQEP is nationally recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Visit aaqep.org for more information.