

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED:

April 6, 2016

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval to Sacred Heart University (SHU) for the period April 6, 2016, through September 30, 2018, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SHU in the following new certification area:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Speech/Language Pathology	K-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this sixth day of April, Two Thousand Sixteen.

Signed: _____

Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: April 6, 2016

SUBJECT: New Program Approval, Speech/Language Pathology Program,
Sacred Heart University

Executive Summary

Introduction

All institutions or organizations proposing new educator preparation programs must seek official approval through the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE). Each institution is required to participate in a thorough and rigorous Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) review and evaluation process designed to guide and support new program proposal efforts. The proposal then moves forward to the CSDE Review Committee. The Review Committee is a 12-person, decision-making body that reviews all continuing approval and new program evaluation team findings and makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Education regarding approval (Attachment A).

Sacred Heart University (SHU) is seeking approval for an educator preparation program designed to train speech and language pathology professionals to serve in Connecticut schools under the #061 endorsement, which is a 2016-17 shortage area for the State of Connecticut. This report presents a summary of the review and evaluation process and includes the Commissioner of Education's recommendation regarding approval for the proposed program based on the Review Committee's recommendation.

History/Background

Located in Fairfield, Connecticut, SHU is the second-largest Catholic university in New England. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), SHU is a coeducational, independent, and comprehensive institution of higher learning, and presently offers more than 40 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs on its main campus in Fairfield and satellite campus sites in other Connecticut cities and towns, Luxembourg, and Ireland through four colleges: College of Arts and Sciences; College of Education and Health Professions; University College; and John F. Welch College of Business. In 2014-15, the SHU student body consisted of 7,781 students, with 4,232 full-time undergraduate students, 765 part-time undergraduate students, and 2,784 graduate students.

The speech and language pathology certification program proposal was developed by the SHU College of Health Professions in partnership with the SHU Isabelle Farrington College of Education. The program is a graduate-level program leading to a Master of Science degree, with two, full-time, on-campus tracks: a two-year track for applicants with an undergraduate, pre-professional background in speech-language pathology; and a three-year track for applicants with no pre-professional background in speech-language pathology. All program graduates have the option to apply for the Connecticut #061 endorsement to serve as speech pathologists in Connecticut schools.

On December 23, 2015, a team consisting of content area and assessment experts, including speech and language pathologists currently practicing in Connecticut public schools, reviewed the SHU speech and language pathology program proposal to evaluate the quality of:

- (1) program scope and sequence, including courses and clinical experiences;
- (2) program assessments, including data collection, analysis, and reporting methods;
- (3) program faculty and instructor qualifications; and
- (4) program resources to support the training of program candidates and long-term program viability.

Additionally, CSDE and Office of Higher Education (OHE) consultants were included on the team to ensure that the proposal aligned with current certification and educator preparation regulations, as well as statutory requirements governing educator preparation programs.

Based on a thorough and rigorous review of all application materials, the team determined that the SHU proposal meets all criteria required for new program proposals and should move forward to the CSDE Review Committee for consideration. During a January 8, 2016, meeting, the Review Committee recommended full approval for the SHU speech and language pathology program and, in accordance with Connecticut educator preparation regulations (Attachment B), recommended that the next review of the program be included with SHU's next continuing approval visit, during which all SHU educator preparation programs will be reviewed.

Recommendation and Justification

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 72 percent of schools report a shortage of speech and language pathologists. In Connecticut, the speech/language pathology endorsement area has been officially placed on the designated shortage area list for 2016-2017, with only two Connecticut educator preparation institutions currently offering a program for training professionals to serve as speech and language pathologists in Connecticut schools. There is a critical need in the state for additional, high quality speech and language pathology certification programs.

Based upon evaluation team findings and the recommendation of the CSDE Review Committee, the CSDE recommends that the SHU speech and language pathology program be granted full approval for the period April 6, 2016, through September 30, 2018, at which point this new program will be reviewed along with all SHU educator preparation programs during SHU's mandated continuing approval visit.

Follow-up Activity

If granted full approval by the SBE, the SHU speech and language pathology program will be reviewed during the next SHU continuing approval visit for all of its educator preparation programs, currently scheduled for spring 2018.

Prepared by: _____
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**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Educator Preparation Program Approval Review Committee**

Educator Preparation Program Representation	K-12 Representation	Community Representation	CSDE/OHE Representation (non-voting members)
<p>1. Dr. Helen Abadiano Chair, Reading and Language Arts Department School of Education and Professional Studies Central Connecticut State University (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>2. Dr. Hari Koirala Chair, Department of Education School of Education and Professional Studies Eastern Connecticut State Un(9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>3. Dr. Patricia Mulcahy-Ernt Director, Graduate Programs, Literacy/English Education Director, Center for Excellence, Learning and Teaching University of Bridgeport (9/2013-9/2016)</p>	<p>1. Joseph Bonillo Teacher, History/Social Studies Waterford High School Waterford Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>2. Kenneth Di Pietro Superintendent Plainfield Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>3. Dr. David Erwin Superintendent Avon Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>4. Dr. Erin McGurk Director, Educational Services Ellington Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>5. Dr. Salvatore Menzo Superintendent Wallingford Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p>	<p>1.A. Bates Lyons President Bates Lyons and Associates Torrington, CT (9/2013-9/2016)</p>	<p>Dr. Katie Toohy CSDE</p> <p>Shannon Marimón CSDE</p> <p>Dr. Noah Dion OHE</p>

**Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for Educator Preparation Program Approval
Section 10-145d-9(g)**

Board Action

After reviewing the recommendation of the Program Review Committee, the Commissioner shall make one or more recommendations to the Board. Based on the Commissioner's recommendation, the Board shall take one of the following actions.

(1) For programs requesting continuing approval:

- (A) Grant full program approval for five years, or for a period of time to bring the program into alignment with the five year approval cycle. The Board may require that an interim report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (B) Grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial noncompliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (C) Grant probationary approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if significant and far-reaching noncompliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Deny approval.

(2) For new programs in institutions which have current approved programs:

- (A) Grant full program approval for a period of time to bring the new program into the five year approval cycle of all other programs offered by the institution. The Board may require that a written report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (B) Grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial noncompliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.

- (C) Grant probationary approval not to exceed three years, if significant and far-reaching noncompliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Deny approval.

(3) For new programs starting in institutions without other approved programs:

- (A) Grant program approval for two years. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, after two semesters of operation, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in implementing the new program. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (B) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant full program approval for three years. The Board may require that a written report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (C) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial noncompliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant probationary approval for up to three years, if significant and far-reaching noncompliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Program Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (E) Deny approval.