

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

October 7, 2020

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(3)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period October 7, 2020, through November 30, 2022, to the University of Connecticut (UCONN), with annual progress monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard until UCONN's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) 2022 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from UCONN in the following new certification area:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
American Sign Language (Other World Language)	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this seventh day of October, Two Thousand Twenty.

Signed: _____
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education

DATE: October 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of Connecticut, American Sign Language, 7-12 (Other World Language)

Executive Summary

Introduction

Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) and other organizations must be approved for new educator preparation programs through the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE). Those seeking approval for new programs are required to participate in a Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) evaluation process designed to guide and support new program proposals. The proposal then moves forward to the CSDE Review Committee (Attachment A), which makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Education regarding new program approval based on evaluation findings. This report presents a summary of the evaluation process for the University of Connecticut (UConn) proposal for an American Sign Language program and includes the Commissioner of Education's recommendation for approval.

History/Background

UConn consists of 14 schools and colleges, offering eight undergraduate degrees in more than 102 majors; 17 graduate degrees in 75 fields of study; and six graduate-level professional programs in law, medicine, dental medicine, and pharmacy.

The UConn Neag School of Education (NSOE) manages and coordinates all programs offered for the initial and advanced preparation of teachers and other school professionals. The Integrated Bachelor's and Master's Program (IB/M) offers initial certification programs in elementary education, special education, music education, agriculture, and various secondary education areas (English, mathematics, science, social studies and world languages) at the master's level. The Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG) offers the same programs for post-baccalaureate candidates at the master's level, with the exception of elementary education and music education. UConn also offers advanced preparation programs leading to certification in the areas of educational leadership and administration, remedial reading and language arts, school counseling, school psychology, and speech and language pathology. Additionally, UConn offers non-certification programs for advanced preparation in the areas of educational technology, educational

psychology, curriculum and instruction, and kinesiology. UCONN educator preparation programs are fully approved by the SBE and nationally accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

UCONN currently offers several world language certification options, including French, Italian, Latin, Spanish, German, and Mandarin Chinese. During spring 2020, UCONN submitted to the CSDE a program proposal to add American Sign Language to their existing world language program. In July 2020, a CSDE-trained evaluation team consisting of content area experts reviewed the proposal to evaluate the quality of the program in the following areas:

- (1) design, scope and sequence, including coursework and fieldwork/clinical experiences;
- (2) candidate assessments, including data collection, analysis, and reporting methods;
- (3) faculty and instructor qualifications; and
- (4) program resources.

CSDE consultants also reviewed the proposal for compliance with Connecticut statutory and regulatory requirements.

The evaluation team identified some areas for improvement (AFI) for the UCONN proposal and was unanimous in its decision that the proposal move forward to the CSDE Review Committee for consideration, with the requirement that the AFIs be addressed before the committee meeting. UCONN submitted all required revisions to the CSDE on September 9, 2020 to the satisfaction of the evaluation team, with the Review Committee recommending full approval for the program.

Recommendation and Justification

Based upon evaluation team findings and the recommendation of the CSDE Review Committee, I recommend that the UCONN American Sign Language program be granted full approval for the period October 7, 2020, through November 30, 2022. If approved by the SBE, the program will begin implementation during spring 2021 and be reviewed during the UCONN 2022 Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) site visit. In the interim, the Connecticut EPP Data Dashboard will provide program evaluation data on an annual basis for all UCONN educator preparation programs, including the American Sign Language program.

Follow-up Activity

If granted full approval by the SBE, the dean of the UCONN Neag School of Education will be notified immediately so that UCONN may start recruiting candidates for the spring 2020 semester.

Prepared by: Katie Moirs, Ph.D., EPP Program Approval Coordinator, Talent Office

Approved by: Shuana K. Tucker, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer, Talent Office

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Educator Preparation Program Approval Review Committee**

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
1. Megan Mackey	Central Connecticut State University	Higher Education	March 2, 2022
2. Tamika La Salle	University of Connecticut	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
3. Catherine O'Callaghan	Western Connecticut State University	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
4. Julie Sochacki	University of Hartford	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
5. Stephanie Storms	Fairfield University	Higher Education	March 2, 2022
6. Joseph Bonillo	Waterford Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
7. Thomas Danehy	Area Cooperative Educational Services	K-12	June 30, 2023
8. Sinthia Sone-Moyano	Manchester Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
9. Kevin Walston	Danbury Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
10. Paul Whyte	New Haven Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
11. Michael Livingston	Capitol Region Education Council	Community	March 2, 2022
12. Shannon Marimón	Connecticut Council for Education Reform	Community	March 2, 2022