

IX.A.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

To Be Proposed:

December 7, 2022

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 December 7, 2022, through March 31, 2026, to Sacred Heart University (SHU), with annual progress monitoring conducted using Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report data in conjunction with the CSDE Review Committee until Sacred Heart University's CAEP spring 2025 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Sacred Heart University in the following new certification area and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

| Program | Grade Level | Program Level | Program Type |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| School Counselor | PreK-12 | Advanced | Graduate |

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

Signed: _____

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary
State Board of Education

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 7, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Sacred Heart University,
School Counseling

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 (CSBE). 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 Sacred Heart University (SHU) proposal for an educator preparation program for school counselor certification and includes the Commissioner of Education's recommendation for approval.

History/Background

Located in Fairfield, Connecticut, SHU is a private, coeducational university serving approximately 5,600 full- and part-time undergraduate students and 3,000 graduate students through 70 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs across five colleges. SHU is regionally accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

The SHU Isabelle Farrington College of Education offers initial certification programs in elementary education and various secondary subject areas, including English language arts, social studies/history, science (biology, chemistry, and general science), mathematics, music, and Spanish. Additionally, SHU offers advanced certification programs in reading, special education, speech/language pathology, intermediate administration, and superintendent of schools. SHU also offers multiple non-certification programs leading to a Master of Education degree and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. SHU educator preparation programs are currently fully approved by the CSBE and nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

SHU is now seeking approval through the CSBE for an advanced educator preparation program for School Counselor, PreK-12. The proposed school counselor program is a 60-credit Master of Arts Degree in School Counseling and leads to institutional recommendation for initial Connecticut certification as a School Counselor. The Master of Arts Degree in School Counseling program is guided by Council for the Accreditation of Counseling Standards as well

as the Connecticut Comprehensive School Counseling Framework, in addition to meeting the Connecticut regulations and statutes that govern the School Counselor Certificate. During summer 2022, SHU submitted to the CSDE a proposal describing the school counselor program, including program syllabi, key assessments, and faculty vitae and resumes. 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 SHU 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. SHU submitted all required revisions to the CSDE during October 2022, 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 SHU educator preparation program for school counselor be granted full approval for the period December 7, 2022, through March 31, 2026. If approved by the CSBE, the program will begin implementation during summer 2023 and be reviewed during SHU's next Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) visit during spring 2025. In the interim, the CAEP annual report will provide data on an annual basis for all SHU educator preparation programs, including this new school counselor program.

Follow-up Activity

If granted full approval by the CSBE, the Dean of the SHU College of Education will be notified immediately so that SHU may start recruiting candidates for summer 2023.

Prepared by: Lauren Tafrate., EPP Program Approval Coordinator, Talent Office

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

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

| Name | Affiliation | Representation | Term Ending |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Megan Mackey | Central Connecticut State University mackey@ccsu.edu | Higher Education | March 31, 2025 |
| 2. Tamika La Salle | University of Connecticut tamika.la_salle@uconn.edu | Higher Education | June 30, 2023 |
| 3. Catherine O'Callaghan | Western Connecticut State University ocallaghanc@wcsu.edu | Higher Education | June 30, 2023 |
| 4. Julie Sochacki | University of Hartford SOCHACKI@hartford.edu | Higher Education | June 30, 2023 |
| 5. Mel Horton | Sacred Heart University hortonm3@sacredheart.edu | Higher Education | March 31, 2025 |
| 6. Joseph Bonillo | Waterford Public Schools jbouillo@waterfordschools.org | K-12 | June 30, 2023 |
| 7. Thomas Danehy | Area Cooperative Educational Services TDanehy@aces.org | K-12 | June 30, 2023 |
| 8. Sinthia Sone-Moyano | Manchester Public Schools sinthias@mpspride.org 860-647-3451 | K-12 | June 30, 2023 |
| 9. Kevin Walston | Danbury Public Schools walstk@danbury.k12.us 203.595.1404 (cell) | K-12 | June 30, 2023 |
| 10. Paul Whyte | New Haven Public Schools PAUL.WHYTE@new-haven.k12.ct.us | K-12 | June 30, 2023 |
| 11. Camille Cooper | Yale Child Study Center Camille.cooper@yale.edu | Community | March 31, 2025 |
| 12. Shannon Marimón | Connecticut Council for Education Reform shannon.marimon@readyct.org | Community | March 31, 2025 |

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for Educator Preparation Program Approval

Section 10-145d-9(g)

Board action

After reviewing the recommendation of the 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 non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the 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 non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the 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 non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the 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 non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the 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 Review Committee, after two semester 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 non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the 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 non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the 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.