New Program Approval Process
SOUTH CAROLINA

All educator preparation units in South Carolina must request approval of new programs from the Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment (OEPSA) at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) prior to implementation. Public institutions must also receive approval from the Commission on Higher Education before the SCDE will review new programs. For new programs, educator preparation units must submit a proposal detailing how they plan to meet all applicable State requirements and NCATE program standards. A new program may not be implemented until it has been approved by the South Carolina State Board of Education.

All institutions initiating a new educator preparation program must complete and submit the SCDE program proposal form, which is available online in PDF format at http://www.scteachers.org/Educate/index.cfm. The proposal form requires detailed information about program goals, capacity (e.g., personnel, facilities, equipment, etc.), and evidence of the ability to meet State requirements and NCATE program standards.

The SCDE requires institutions to include evidence that assessments are in place to meet all State requirements and NCATE program standards. Program review teams must be provided with specific, convincing evidence that the unit, through its assessment system, has the ability to collect data to determine that all State requirements and NCATE program standards can be met.

The application for a new program is reviewed by a trained, three-member review team, composed of peers who have expertise in State requirements and NCATE program standards. After review by SCDE staff members, new program proposals are submitted to the Professional Review Committee and the State Board of Education for final approval.

Dr. Lonnie L. Craven
Senior Education Associate
South Carolina Department of Education
Office of Educator Preparation
3700 Forest Drive
Suite 320
Columbia, SC 29204
LCraven@scteachers.org