NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

Instructions on Completing SPA Program Review Template/Form: **Option A**

**For use with:** Program-level plans to meet Specialized Professional Associations (SPAs) NCSS standards

**For use by:** Program Report Compilers and SPA Program Reviewers

Educator preparation providers have widely used outcome assessments aligned to standards developed by SPAs to monitor progress of candidates and evaluate programs. The purpose is to ensure that candidates are capable of applying content and pedagogical knowledge and provide evidence for CAEP Component 1.3 (Initial Level Programs) or CAEP Component A.1.2 (Advanced Level Programs). Programs selecting the SPA Program Review with National Recognition **Option A** use six to eight key assessments to provide evidence that SPA standards elements/components are met. In their entirety, the assessments and data required for submission should demonstrate the candidates have mastered the SPA standards.

**Which Programs Should Submit NCSS SPA Reports?**
If a provider offers programs that are designed to prepare and recommend licensure for middle and secondary school teachers in comprehensive social studies and/or the individual disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, economics, and psychology and are pursuing National Recognition as part of CAEP accreditation should respond to these guidelines.

**How to Complete the Program Report Template/Form**
SPA Program Review is conducted through CAEP’s Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS). A program would request a template (“shell”) through AIMS using institutional login information. Instructions on how to request shells are provided on the CAEP website.

**COVER SHEET**
(Must be completed for initial, revised, and response-to-conditions reports)
Complete the entire section: Numbers 1-16.

*Question 16. State Licensure requirement for national recognition:*  
**NCSS**, in alignment with CAEP policy, does not require an 80% pass rate for the program completer cohorts reported taking the state licensure examination(s) in the content field. However, the last three years of candidate performance data on the licensure examination(s) must be reported in Section IV of the SPA report template as evidence for Assessment 1 in initial review reports. Identify whether your state requires such a test.
  - Yes
  - No
SECTION I. CONTEXT
Provide general information on the program as specified by the directions for this section. Each question that requires a narrative has a specific character limit. There is one attachment.

Note that the table for Candidate Information (question #5) is filled out online. This information must be provided for initial, revised, and response-to-conditions reports.

The Faculty Information (question #6) is provided during initial review. It includes all faculty in the AIMS Manage Faculty Information view. Pertinent faculty information is then imported into each program report.

SECTION II. LIST OF ASSESSMENTS
Using the chart included in this report form, indicate the name, type, and administration point for each of the 6-8 assessments documented in this report. (Note that Section IV of the report form lists examples of assessments that may be appropriate for each type of assessment that must be documented in the program report.)

SECTION III. RELATIONSHIP OF ASSESSMENTS TO STANDARDS
Using the chart included in this report form, indicate which of the assessments listed in Section II provide evidence of meeting specific program standards elements.

*When submitting a revised or response-to-conditions report, if a new assessment replaces one submitted in the initial review report to meet a SPA standard, Section III must be completed.

SECTION IV. EVIDENCE FOR MEETING STANDARDS
Follow the directions provided in Section IV of the template to develop information on the 6-8 key assessments. The key assessments should be required of all candidates. Assessments scoring guides/rubrics and data charts should be aligned with the SPA standards elements/components. This means that the concepts in the SPA standards should be apparent in the assessments and in the scoring guides/rubrics to the same depth, breadth, and specificity as in the SPA standards. Data tables should also be aligned with the SPA standards elements/components. The data should be presented, in general, at the same level they are collected. For example, if a rubric collects data on 10 elements/components [each relating to specific SPA standard(s) indicators], then the data chart should report the data on each of the elements rather than reporting a cumulative score.

For each assessment, attach one document that includes (1) a two-page narrative and (2) assessment documentation. The narrative includes the following:
   a. A brief description of the assessment and its use in the program (one sentence may be sufficient);
   b. A description of how this assessment specifically aligns with the standards it is cited for in Section III. Cite SPA standards by number, title, and/or standard wording.
   c. A brief analysis of the data findings; and
   d. An interpretation of how that data provides evidence for meeting standards, indicating the specific SPA standards by number, title, and/or standard wording;
   e. The assessment documentation will include the following:
f. The assessment tool itself or a rich description of the assessment (often the
directions given to candidates);
g. The scoring guide for the assessment; and
h. Charts that provide candidate data derived from the assessment.

Note:
  a. One assessment is preferably presented as one file;
  b. There is a limit of 20 attachments
  c. Attachment size can be no larger than 2 MB

**SECTION V. USE OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM**
Describe how faculty are using the data from assessments to improve candidate
performance and the program, as it relates to content knowledge; pedagogical and
professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions; and student learning.

**SECTION VI. FOR REVISED AND RESPONSE-TO-CONDITIONS REPORTS ONLY**
Describe what changes or additions have been made in the report to address the
conditions and concerns raised in the original recognition report. List the sections of the
report you are resubmitting and the changes that have been made.

Specific instructions for preparing a Revised report are available on the CAEP web site at
http://www.caepnet.org/accreditation/caep-accreditation/spa-program-review-policies-
and-procedur/guidelines-for-submitting-revised-spa-pr

Specific instructions for preparing a Response to Conditions report are available on the
CAEP web site at
http://www.caepnet.org/accreditation/caep-accreditation/spa-program-review-policies-
and-procedur/guidelines-for-submitting-response-to-co

**General Guidelines on Documentation**

1. Attachments
Sections I and IV include attachments. In Section IV, each attachment should be no
longer than the equivalent of seventeen text pages. A program report can include no
more than a total of 20 attachments. A single attachment cannot be larger than 2 MB.
The files for each attachment should be prepared as Word, Word Perfect, Excel, or PDF
documents. AIMS accepts documents that have been created in the newest version of
Word and saved with a “.docx” extension.

2. Character Limits
Character limits have been set based on one page being equivalent to 4000 characters.
Character counts include spaces, punctuation, numbers, etc.

3. Formatting Instructions
Note that text boxes in Sections I, II, V, and VI are html-based and will not accept any
formatting such as bullets, tables, charts, etc. Be sure that your responses are text-only.
If you do need to include a table or a graph in a response to a question, then you must
separate that into a unique file and attach in Section I. This restriction does not apply to
the documentation for Section IV, since these documents are all uploaded as
NOTE: CAEP staff may require programs to revise reports that are not aligned with the template instructions regarding format, page limits, or number of attachments. Please note that hyperlinks embedded in report documentation will not be read by reviewers and cannot be used as a means of providing additional information.

Resources on the CAEP website
CAEP has multiple resources on its website to help programs to prepare SPA reports. These are available at http://www.caepnet.org/accreditation/caep-accreditation/spa-program-review-policies-and-procedur

SPA-specific program review templates and resources are available at http://www.caepnet.org/accreditation/caep-accreditation/spa-standards-and-report-forms

Specific Guidelines for NCSS Review

NCSS National Recognition Decision Rules:
The National Council for the Social Studies has not prioritized its Standards, nor has it set minimal expectations for achievement of “national recognition”. However, it must be pointed out that each of Standards 1.1 through 1.10, as well as Standards 2.1 through 2.5, if applicable, specify four evidence requirements: content knowledge, assessment of candidate knowledge of content, licensure testing, and performance evidence. Standards 3.1 and 3.2 have only programmatic evidence requirements. Please note that the NCSS recognizes programs and assesses the quality of reported candidate success, but it does not assess the success of individual candidates.

The NCSS expects the following of all institutional reports:

Standards 1.1 through 1.10 and 3.1 and 3.2 must be completed satisfactorily by all programs. However, licensure testing evidence is only required where state licensure examinations have sub-tests applicable to Standards 1.1 through 1.10. For instance, the PRAXIS II: Social Studies Content examination contains five sub-tests applicable to Standards 1.1 through 1.10. State licensure examination sub-tests may relate to only about half of the ten thematic standards. Each program is expected to demonstrate content, candidate knowledge, and performance evidence for Standards 1.1 through 1.10. Standards 3.1 and 3.2 expect only programmatic evidence.

In addition, programs that qualify candidates for specialty licenses within the social studies must complete Standards 2.1 through 2.5, showing content, candidate knowledge, licensure testing, and performance evidence as appropriate to the specialty emphasis for which it offers state licensure.
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1 = Required
2 = Required, if part of specialty state license in social studies
3 = Required, if part of state licensure test
4 = May not necessarily be described standard-by-standard
X = NOT required

Additional assessment types (beyond the first 5 required types) required by NCSS:

Other specific information required by NCSS only:

Will NCSS accept course grades as one of the assessments?
All SPAs will accept course grades as one of the 6 to 8 key assessments. Instructions for documenting course grades have been standardized for all SPAs. These instructions are available on the CAEP website at [http://caepnet.org/accreditation/caep-accreditation/program-review-options/grade-policy](http://caepnet.org/accreditation/caep-accreditation/program-review-options/grade-policy)

Other resources are available on the NCSS website at: [http://www.ncss.org/CAEP/](http://www.ncss.org/CAEP/)