ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

An official record of actions taken by the AAQEP Accreditation Commission

Lee University

Initial Teacher, P-12 Leader, and Specialized Personnel Preparation

Cleveland, TN

June 2025

ACTION

Based on examination of the case record, including the program's self-study and the AAQEP review team's report, the AAQEP Accreditation Commission makes the following determination regarding the Lee University educator preparation program:

INITIAL ACCREDITATION WITH NOTE - The Accreditation Commission finds that the program meets all AAQEP standards and is accredited for a nonrenewable term of five years with the notation(s) specified below.

SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

This action includes the following program types (see below for details):

X	**Initial Teacher Preparation**: Programs that prepare individuals for their first professional teaching credential
	Advanced Educator Preparation: Programs that prepare already-licensed educators to qualify for additional credentials or that add to their professional capabilities
X	**P-12 Leader Preparation**: Programs preparing individuals for credentials as building principals, district superintendents, and other educational leaders or administrators
X	**Specialized Professional Personnel Preparation**: Programs that prepare personnel for roles for which a teaching credential may not be a prerequisite or that lead to no specific credential

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TERM

The accreditation term takes effect immediately and lasts through **June 30, 2030**, or until Lee University ceases to be a member in good standing of AAQEP, whichever is earlier. Annual Reports are due at the end of each calendar year, with the first report being due December 31, 2026. In addition, please refer to AAQEP's substantive change policy for guidance on program changes that must be reported.

RATIONALE

The Commission evaluated the program's evidence for each AAQEP standard and determined that all four standards are met. The program prepares candidates to work effectively as professional educators who can adapt to different contexts and continue to grow professionally. Lee University maintains program quality by analyzing evidence of its effectiveness and making revisions to benefit candidates. It has developed and fostered deep partnerships with local schools to support high-need students and expand the educator workforce in support of strengthening the P-20 education system.The Commission also reviewed the provider's plans for ongoing growth and improvement, based on the findings of the self-study, and affirms the intentions presented.

STANDARDS REPORT

The Commission has made the following determinations regarding the AAQEP standards based on its review of the program's outcomes, documentation of capacity, assessment system, quality control system, plans for development, and other evidence as reviewed and supplemented by the review team:

Standard (2018 Expectations Framework)	Met	Not Met
1. Candidate/Completer Performance - Program completers perform as professional educators with the capacity to support success for all students.	X	
2. Completer Professional Competence and Growth - Program completers adapt to working in a variety of contexts and grow as professionals.	X	
3. Quality Program Practices - The program has the capacity to ensure that its completers meet Standards 1 and 2.	X	
4. Program Engagement in System Improvement - Program practices strengthen the P-20 education system in light of local needs and in keeping with the program's mission.	X	

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CONCERNS AND CONDITIONS

Concerns are minor problems or shortcomings related to one or more aspects of a standard and must be addressed in the provider's next Annual Report(s). *Conditions* are more significant problems that threaten to undermine one or more of the standards and may result in a shorter accreditation term or require resolution before accreditation takes effect.

Standard	Notation	Remedy and timeline
	No concerns or conditions	

OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Observations offer a perspective or a suggestion that is nonevaluative. *Comments* call attention to a program strength or success that is noteworthy but not so significant or pervasive as to warrant citation as a commendation. *Commendations* are awarded when evidence shows outstanding preparation and performance on one or more aspects of a standard or the standard as a whole.

Standard	Notation (in reference to 2018 Expectations Framework)
3	**Observation:** The Commission notes the program's outlined plans for capacity-building efforts to strengthen connectivity between candidate and program performance measures as demonstrated by the faculty's deliberate selection of key data points and their commitment to evidence-informed decision-making. This notation pertains to **Standard 3**, which seeks evidence of the program's capacity to effectively prepare educators.
4	**Comment:** The Commission notes the program's robust partnership with Hamilton County Schools to provide sustained support for high-need schools, while simultaneously expanding the local educator pipeline and promoting workforce diversity in an area of great need. This notation pertains to **Aspect 4a**, which expects the program to engage with local partners to support high-need schools and reduce disparities in educational outcomes, and **Aspect 4b**, which addresses efforts to meet workforce needs and to diversify participation in the educator workforce through candidate recruitment and support.

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DETAILED SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

The following specific programs are included in this action:

Degree or Program offered by the provider	**Certificate, License, Endorsement, or Other Credential** granted by the Tennessee State Department of Education
Programs that lead to initial teaching credentials	
Bachelor of Science	● Biological Science, 6-12 ● Business Education, 6-12 ● Chemistry, 6-12 ● Early Childhood Education, PreK-3 ● Elementary Education, K-5 ● English as a Second Language, PreK-12 ● English, 6-12 ● Government, 6-12 ● History, 6-12 ● Mathematics, 6-12 ● Middle Grades, 6-8 ○ English Language Arts ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ Social Studies ● Music, K-12 ○ Vocal/General ○ Instrumental/General ● Psychology, 9-12 ● Spanish, 6-12 ● Special Education ○ Comprehensive, K-12 ○ Interventionist, K-8 ○ Interventionist, 6-12 ○ Early Childhood, pre-K-3 ● Theater, K-12 ● Visual Arts, K-12
Master of Arts in Teaching	● Biology, 6-12 ● Business Education, 6-12 ● Chemistry, 6-12 ● Early Childhood Education, PreK-3 ● Elementary Education, K-5 ● English, 6-12 ● English as a Second Language, PreK-12

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	● Economics, 6-12 ● French, 6-12 ● Government, 6-12 ● Health/Wellness, K-12 ● History, 6-12 ● Mathematics, 6-12 ● Middle Grades, 6-8 ○ English Language Arts ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ Social Studies ● Music, K-12 ○ Vocal/General ○ Instrumental/General ● Physical Education K-12 ● Physics, 6-12 ● Psychology, 9-12 ● Spanish, 6-12 ● Special Education ○ Comprehensive, K-12 ○ Interventionist, K-8 ○ Interventionist, 6-12 ○ Early Childhood, PreK-3 ● Speech Communication, 6-12 ● Visual Art, K-12
Alternative Certification / Job-Embedded	● Biology, 6-12 ● Business Education, 6-12 ● Chemistry, 6-12 ● Early Childhood Education, PreK-3 ● Elementary Education, K-5 ● English, 6-12 ● English as a Second Language, PreK-12 ● Economics, 6-12 ● French, 6-12 ● Government, 6-12 ● Health/Wellness, K-12 ● History, 6-12 ● Mathematics, 6-12 ● Middle Grades, 6-8 ○ English Language Arts ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ Social Studies ● Music, K-12 ○ Vocal/General

	○ Instrumental/General ● Physical Education K-12 ● Physics, 6-12 ● Psychology, 9-12 ● Spanish, 6-12 ● Special Education ○ Comprehensive, K-12 ○ Interventionist, K-8 ○ Interventionist, 6-12 ○ Early Childhood, PreK-3 ● Speech Communication, 6-12 ● Visual Art, K-12
Certification Only (no degree)	● Biology, 6-12 ● Business Education, 6-12 ● Chemistry, 6-12 ● Communication, 6-12 ● Early Childhood Education, PreK-3 ● Elementary Education, K-5 ● English, 6-12 ● English as a Second Language, PreK-12 ● Economics, 6-12 ● French, 6-12 ● Government, 6-12 ● Health/Wellness, K-12 ● History, 6-12 ● Mathematics, 6-12 ● Middle Grades, 6-8 ○ English Language Arts ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ Social Studies ● Music, K-12 ○ Vocal/General ○ Instrumental/General ● Physical Education K-12 ● Physics, 6-12 ● Psychology, 9-12 ● Spanish, 6-12 ● Special Education ○ Comprehensive, K-12 ○ Interventionist, K-8 ○ Interventionist, 6-12 ○ Early Childhood, PreK-3 ● Visual Art, K-12

Programs that lead to additional or advanced credentials for already-licensed educators	
N/A	N/A
Programs that lead to P-12 leader credentials	
Master of Education in Educational Leadership	Instructional Leader, PreK-12
Educational Specialist	Instructional Leader, PreK-12
Programs that lead to credentials for specialized professionals or to no specific credential	
Master of Science in School Counseling	School Counseling, PreK-12
Master of Education Curriculum and Instruction	N/A
Doctor of Education, Professional Praxis	N/A

NOTE: Accreditation actions are based on examination of the case record, including the provider's self-study and the AAQEP review team's report. Decisions are the sole responsibility of the AAQEP Accreditation Commission and may not be modified by staff or quality assurance reviewers.