

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
February 20, 2025

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION

- J. Approval of Belhaven University’s initial-level preparation programs as a result of state standards-based educator preparation program reviews and national accreditation decisions

Background Information: In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 there is established within the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the Mississippi Board of Education regarding standards for the certification and licensure and continuing professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi.

On January 10, 2025, at its regular meeting the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development granted approval of initial-level preparation programs for Belhaven University based on the results of MDE’s state-standards based educator preparation program reviews and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) national accreditation decisions.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



DOCUMENTATION FOR EPP STATE APPROVAL

Educator Preparation Provider (EPP): Belhaven University
Recipient of CAEP’s 2024 Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement
Date Presented to Licensure Commission: January 10, 2025

1.1 Nationally Accredited Programs (Accreditor Recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation, CHEA)

PROGRAM	ACCREDITOR	ACCREDITED THROUGH
Music Education	National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)	2025

1.2 Nationally Recognized Programs

PROGRAM	SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL ASSO.	RECOGNIZED THROUGH
NA		

2.1 CAEP Accreditation Decision - Initial

- Accreditation
- Probation
- Accreditation with Stipulations

Date of On-site Visit: March 19-21, 2023

Comments: All standards met.

2.2 CAEP Accreditation Decision - Advanced

- Accreditation
- Probation
- Accreditation with Stipulations
- NA

Date of On-site Visit: March 19-21, 2023

Comments: All standards met.

2.3 CAEP Annual Reports

- Annual Reporting Measures displayed at <https://www.belhaven.edu/pdfs/education/caep/caep-annual-accountability-measures-report.pdf>.
- Annual Reporting Measures not displayed.

3.1 MDE Program Review Recommendation

Comments: Initial review findings were sent to the EPP on July 12, 2021. Findings cited: limited information on how the program equips candidates for licensure preparation, gaps in using diverse instructional materials, insufficient evidence of data-informed instruction to meet the needs of varying student abilities, and concerns regarding the integration of technology. More broadly, the findings indicated a need for clarity on how the program supports candidates in fulfilling professional responsibilities as well as how data analysis is used to inform program improvement.

Initial findings from the Educational Leadership programs noted information was lacking on how the program prepares candidates to identify relevant data for school improvement and decision-making; how candidates develop strategies that align with a school’s vision, mission, and core values; and how candidates are equipped to use the Professional Growth System (PGS) rubric as well as school safety data. Furthermore, the review found inadequate evidence of shared partnerships with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and noted the absence of a comprehensive five-year recruitment plan.

The EPP submitted evidence in the rejoinders to address program deficiencies cited which resulted in all standards being met for all programs

PROGRAMS REVIEWED	INITIAL REVIEW	FINAL REVIEW
Educational Leadership K-12	Met with Conditions	Met
Elementary Education K-6	Met with Conditions	Met
Masters of Arts in Teaching	Met with Conditions	Met
Music Education K-12	Met	
EPP S2 & 3	Met with Conditions	Met

3.2 MDE Annual Reports

COHORT	PROGRAM TYPE	ADMIT	COMPLETERS
2022-2023	Traditional	4	1
	Alternate	48	246
	Educational Leadership	48	36
2021-2022	Traditional	1	4
	Alternate	531	381
	Educational Leadership	51	35
2020-2021	Traditional	3	5
	Alternate	704	257
	Educational Leadership	63	31

Traditional completers over the last three years (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023):

- Increased by
 Decreased by 80%

Alternate route completers over the last three years (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023):

- Increased by
 Decreased by 4%

3.3 Ability of Completers to Be Hired in Education Positions for Which They Have Been Prepared (during first year)

COHORT	N	EMPLOYED AS MS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER		EMPLOYED AS MS PRIVATE SCHOOL	
		N	PERCENTAGE	N	PERCENTAGE
2021-2022	4	2	50.00%	0	0.00%
2020-2021	5	2	40.00%	0	0.00%
2019-2020	4	2	50.00%	0	0.00%

Data provided through the NSPARC Report

3.4 Test Pass Rates at Completion (Traditional Route)

COHORT	N PLT	%	N PRAXIS CONTENT		N FOUNDATIONS OF READING	
			N	%	N	%
2022-2023	1	100.00%	1	100%	1	100.00%
2021-2022	4	100.00%	3	100%	2	100.00%
2020-2021	5	100.00%	5	100%	2	100.00%

Data based on highest score for all attempts

NOTE: Statewide test pass rates at completion were impacted due to the COVID-19 admission and licensure test suspension provision.

4.1 Surveys

SURVEY	YEAR	RETURN RATE**	SATISFACTION RATING (4-point scale)
<i>MDE TC Exit Survey</i>	2023-2024	75.00%	3.93
	2022-2023	0.00%	NA
	2021-2022	33.33%	3.63
<i>MDE CT Survey</i>	2023-2024	50.00%	3.89
	2022-2023	100.00%	4.00
	2021-2022	33.33%	3.95
<i>Statewide Initial Survey*</i>	2024	0.00%	NA
	2023	2.53%	3.16
	2022	1.91%	2.81
<i>Statewide Initial Employer Survey*</i>	2024	0.00%	NA
	2023	0.32%	4.00
	2022	0.76%	3.92
<i>Statewide Advanced Survey*</i>	2024	19.51%	3.51
	2023	14.29%	3.84
	2022	25.81%	3.70
<i>Statewide Advanced Employer Survey*</i>	2024	19.51%	3.64
	2023	11.43%	3.45
	2022	16.13%	3.65

NOTE: Initial Responses include traditional and Alternate Route completers

**The data reported for program review include responses collected the first year after degree completion as a more accurate indicator of preparation. Initial survey data collected the first and third year after degree completion are posted at*

https://olemiss.edu/depts/education/assessment/_extras/epp/report.php and advanced survey data are posted at https://olemiss.edu/depts/education/assessment/_extras/epp/report_ap.php.

*** Email addresses of teachers are not collected through MSIS. Therefore, response rates may vary or be low. (Most institutions inactivate completers' email addresses after a year of inactivity.) If email addresses are not available, the EPP utilizes various techniques such as Facebook, LinkedIn, or other social media sites to locate program completers.*

Based upon the findings in this report, the Division of Educator Preparation recommends to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development full state approval through **3/15/2028** with a full review of all programs to be conducted during the **2026-2027** academic year.