

College of Education and  
Human Development  
*Office of the Dean*  
Anne E. Pooler



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June 6, 2012

Mr. Harry Osgood  
Higher Education Specialist  
Title II Higher Education Act State Contact  
Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

Dear Harry:

This letter is a follow up to our phone call with you on Monday, May 21 to inquire about the possibility of an extension of the date of our State/NCATE-CAEP program approval accreditation visit for programs at the University of Maine from November 2013 to November 2014. We understand that Chapter 114 allows extensions to be granted by the State Board of Education due to extenuating circumstances.

With increased standards for excellence as defined by CAEP, which will be implemented in the fall of 2013, our successful accreditation must be based on three years of viable data that demonstrate high standards for program accountability and outcomes driven decision-making. Our institution's response necessitated a dramatic change from reliance on a modest and limited data system to the adoption of Tk20, a comprehensive data management system. The process of implementing Tk20 began in fall 2011 with numerous layers of unexpected complexities, such as the technical realities involved in working in concert with the UMS to interface with PeopleSoft, development of more sophisticated key assessments and rubrics for initial and advanced programs within the Unit required by the new data system, as well as faculty, staff, and student training.

Granting a one year extension for accreditation will result in showing three years of viable data for FY' 12-FY' 14 under the Tk20 System. The alternative we face without granting this extension will result in less than adequate data collection and would prove to be a great disservice to our students, programs, and excellent reputation in teacher education.

We have been actively involved over the last two years in preparation for our forthcoming accreditation. Our transition to the implementation of a substantially more powerful data management system takes the requisite time to collect, analyze, and act on data we believe vital to our accreditation. We are proudly dedicated to the highest standards of excellence and respectfully request that the extenuating circumstances detailed above warrant the granting of a one-year extension for our accreditation review from 2013 to 2014.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anne E. Pooler'.

Anne E. Pooler, Dean