



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IX.D

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Michael T. Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, Maine Department of Education, on behalf of Commissioner Pender Makin

DATE: March 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Request to Extend Existing Approval of the Maine College of Art & Design Educator Preparation Program by Twenty-Four Months

BACKGROUND:

The Maine College of Art & Design (MECA&D) is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Fall 2018 to Fall 2023.

On November 30, 2023, MECA&D institutional representatives indicated their desire to request an extension to their current EPP approval. On January 29, 2024, MECA&D formalized that request by submitting a letter from Ian Anderson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, to the State Board of Education. According to the letter, two primary factors are driving their request for an extension to their EPP approval:

- (1) There is only one full-time faculty member in the MAT program, who is currently engaged in a time-intensive "rank review" during AY23-24 in addition to their full teaching load. The faculty member would start the self-review drafting process in AY24-25.
- (2) The review had been scheduled for a Spring semester; however, MECA&D's program participants are nearly all off campus with field placements in the spring. A fall visit would allow the review team to observe in-person classes and engage with students.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on February 21, 2024, and voted unanimously to approve MECA&D's request to extend their EPP approval through Fall 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the Maine College of Art & Design's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twenty-four months.

To: Members of the State Board of Education
RE: Request to Defer State Review Timeline

January 29, 2024

Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

We respectfully request that the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program at Maine College of Art & Design be allowed to defer our self-study report from spring 2024 to spring 2025 and, subsequently, that our accreditation visit be moved to Fall 2025.

The primary factors driving this request are as follows:

- We have only one full-time faculty member in the MAT program who is undergoing a rank review this semester, a process that requires significant time and commitment for success. This capable chair's course schedule is already full for the semester and she would not be able to complete the self study in a timely fashion.
- The Fall semester is the only appropriate time for an accreditation team to visit the MAT program as students are engaged in in-person classes and projects, as well as a diversity of local fieldwork experiences. In contrast, in the spring, the lion's share of our teacher candidates' time is spent out in the field with student teaching placements -- any visiting team would find it difficult to assess the program this way. All previous visits from state review teams have happened in the fall for these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if there are any questions that I could answer that would be helpful in your deliberations.

We look forward to sharing our program with the visiting team once it is scheduled.

Respectfully,



Ian Anderson, Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Dean of the College
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