
3E

Action

Educator Preparation Committee

Initial Institutional Approval – Stage II: Eligibility Requirements for California Institute of the Arts

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents, as part of the Initial Institutional Approval process, California Institute of the Arts' responses to the Eligibility Requirements for consideration and possible approval by the Commission.

Recommended Action: That the Commission review the responses to the Eligibility Requirements and determine if the institution may move forward in the Initial Institutional Approval process.

Presenter: Hart Boyd, Consultant, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal

Educator Preparation and Advancement

- **Goal 1.** Education preparation programs hold candidates to high standards and adequately prepare them to support all students by using culturally and linguistically responsive and sustaining practices in equitable, inclusive, and safe environments.
 - A. Set and uphold rigorous standards for educator preparation programs
 - C. Enact a rigorous accreditation process that ensures programs meet standards and are effective in preparing educators for public schools

Initial Institutional Approval – Stage II: Eligibility Requirements for California Institute of the Arts

Introduction

This agenda item presents for Commission consideration one institution of higher education seeking to become a program sponsor through the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process. California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) seeks IIA in order to offer a Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education program. CalArts has submitted responses to the Eligibility Requirements and relevant Preconditions for consideration and possible approval by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission). CalArts was founded in 1961 and is located in Santa Clarita, California. CalArts is a WASC approved institution of higher education that offers comprehensive degree programs in visual, performing, media, and literacy arts.

Approval of an institution for Stage II does not permit the institution to offer an educator preparation program that leads to a credential or license. Approval in Stage II allows an institution to move forward to Stage III in which Common Standards will be submitted for review and the institution brought before the Commission again at that time. In addition, although there is important information about the proposed program contained in the submission for Stage II, review of the Common Standards and applicable program Preconditions and standards will occur in subsequent stages. Please see the table on page three of this item for more information about the five stages of the IIA process.

Background

California law provides the Commission with the authority to accredit institutions to offer programs that lead to a credential to serve as an educator in California's public schools. Among other responsibilities, Education Code section 44372(c) sets forth the Commission's responsibility to rule on the eligibility of an applicant for initial accreditation for the purpose of offering a program of educator preparation.

The Commission requires that an institution seeking to offer new educator preparation program(s) must first be approved for initial accreditation as a new program sponsor and must do so by completing the Commission's IIA process. A table detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on page three of this item.

California Institute of the Arts

CalArts seeks Initial Institutional Approval to offer one program:

- Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education (Arts, Media, and Entertainment)

Summaries and excerpts of CalArts' responses to the twelve [Eligibility Requirement Criteria](#), two [Initial Program Preconditions](#), and [General Precondition](#) #9: Faculty and Instructional Personnel Participation, are provided in this item. CalArts' full response is also available on the

[CalArts IIA-Accreditation website](#). Criteria 1 through 9 have been reviewed by staff and a recommendation has been provided. Criteria 10, 11, and 12 have been summarized for the Commission's review and consideration. All relevant Preconditions have been reviewed by Commission staff and have been determined to be met.

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

CalArts is seeking approval of Stage II in order to be eligible for Stage III as highlighted and italicized in the chart below.

IIA Process	Stage I - Prerequisites	<i>Stage II – Eligibility</i>	Stage III – Provisional Approval	Stage IV – Initial Program Approval	Stage V – Full Approval
Purpose	Ensures legal eligibility of institution in California Ensures institution understands requirements of Commission’s accreditation system	<i>Ensures that institution has capacity to sponsor effective programs</i>	Ensures institution meets all Common Standards	Ensures all proposed programs meet all relevant program standards and program-specific preconditions	Program operates for 2-4 years and hosts a provisional accreditation site visit
Institutional Requirements	Must: 1. Have legal eligibility 2. Attend Accreditation 101 with institutional team	<i>Submit responses to:</i> • <i>12 Eligibility Criteria</i> • <i>Initial Program Preconditions</i> • <i>General Precondition #9</i>	Submit responses to: • Common Standards	Submit responses to: • Program-Specific Preconditions • Program Standards	Institution Must: • Collect data • Host provisional site visit
Reviewed By	Staff	<i>Staff</i>	BIR	Preconditions: Staff Program Standards: BIR	Site Visit Team & COA
Authority	Staff	<i>Commission</i>	Commission	COA	Commission
Decision	Determine Eligibility for Stage II	<i>Eligibility:</i> 1. <i>Grant</i> 2. <i>Deny</i>	Provisional Approval: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Program(s): 1. Approve 2. Deny	1. Grant Full Approval 2. Grant Full Approval & Remand to COA to Address Stipulations 3. Continue Provisional Status for 1 Year to Address Stipulations 4. Deny Approval
IIA Status*	Not Approved	<i>Not Approved</i>	Provisional Approval**	Provisional Approval***	Full Approval

*At conclusion of stage **Institutionally approved but cannot offer programs ***May begin offering approved program

Criterion 1 through 9

In accordance with the Commission's adopted process for determining eligibility for Initial Institutional Approval, Eligibility Criteria 1-9, as follows, includes a staff review and recommendation.

Criterion 1: Responsibility and Authority

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- CalArts is proposing to offer a Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education (CTE) program.
- CalArts has submitted a complete organizational chart that indicates the CTE program will be managed and delivered by Extended Studies.
- The Arts Education faculty will report to Evan Tapper, Dean, Extended Studies. Evan Tapper will be the Unit Head responsible for ongoing oversight of all educator preparation programs.
- Evan Tapper, Dean, Extended Studies will report to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- The Arts Education faculty members are subject matter experts who will develop and deliver the CTE courses. Within Extended Studies, the Assistant Learning Designer will provide instructional design support to the Arts Education faculty as the faculty develops the courses.
- CalArts assures that the duties related to credential recommendations will be performed only by employees of CalArts and that these individuals will take part in the Commission training related to the recommendation process.
- CalArts has identified Evan Tapper, Dean, Extended Studies as the individual who will be responsible for credential recommendations.

Staff note: Extended Education entities are typically not independently eligible for Commission approval as they are not the WASC accredited entity. Extended education programs often operate independently, for instance on issues such as governance, hiring, coursework development, and tuition/fee policies, from their WASC accredited campus. The Commission has allowed educator preparation programs to be offered through a WASC-accredited institution's extended education division/department as long as there is direct oversight of the educator preparation programs by the WASC accredited campus. Should the Commission approve this proposal, CalArts, not CalArts Extended Studies, would be the Commission approved entity. The reporting relationship in this proposal indicates that the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs of CalArts will have authority and oversight for the educator preparation programs. This relationship must be maintained for continued Commission approval.

Criterion 2: Lawful Practices

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- A non-discrimination policy for the institution's *employees* is provided in the employee handbook.
- A non-discrimination policy for the institution's *candidates* is provided in the academic policies on the CalArts website.

Criterion 3: Commission Assurances and Compliance

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- CalArts provided a statement of assurance signed by the unit head, Evan Tapper, Dean, Extended Studies that states the institution:
 - a) Will comply with all preconditions,
 - b) Will submit all data reports and accreditation documents,
 - c) Will cooperate in an evaluation of the program by an external team or monitoring of the program by Commission staff,
 - d) Will participate fully in the Commission's accreditation system and submission timelines, and
 - e) In the event the program closes, will offer the program and meet all adopted standards until the candidate completes, withdraws, is dropped, or is admitted to another program.

Criterion 4: Requests for Data

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- Lisa Barr, Director of Operations, Administration, and Finance is identified as the qualified officer responsible for reporting and responding to all requests for data within timeframes specified by the Commission.

Criterion 5: Grievance Process

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- CalArts has provided a grievance process which will be accessible to all candidates and applicants on the institution's website.
- Candidates will be informed of the grievance process during new student orientation and via the institution's learning management system

Criterion 6: Communication and Information

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- CalArts has developed and provided a draft educator preparation website that will be accessible to the public without the requirement of log in information.

- CalArts will include the mission, governance, administration and admission procedures on the educator preparation website.
- In addition to the website, program information will be made available through a CTE admission brochure, a postcard, and an institutional catalog.

Criterion 7: Student Records Management, Access, and Security

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- CalArts will use the secure Modern Campus Lifelong Learning student registration and data management system.
- To register for a course or program, candidates will log into the Lifelong Learning student portal and complete the required information to receive a unique CalArts username and password. With the username and password, candidates may log into the portal to view candidate records and download transcripts.
- All student digital records will be maintained on the secure server at the Lifelong Learning data center in the United States. Access to candidate records will be password protected and restricted to a few Extended Studies staff members. Paper records will not be kept, for security reasons.
- The secure server will not be accessible to the public. Lifelong Learning uses Amazon EC2 infrastructure – equivalent of a tier-4 or enterprise-level data center – which includes power management, physical access control, fire and water detection, and suppression.

Criterion 8: Disclosure

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- The proposed delivery model for the program is online.
- CalArts notes that while course content will be delivered online, candidates will have access to the CalArts campus at 24700 McBean Parkway in Valencia, California. Additionally, candidates will have access to the institution’s library and are welcome to attend on-campus events.
- The CalArts submission states that there will be no outside organizations providing any direct educational services.

Criterion 9: Veracity in all Claims and Documentation Submitted

Staff Recommendation: Aligned

- An assurance signed by Evan Tapper, Dean, Extended Studies has been submitted attesting to the veracity of all statements and documentation submitted to the Commission. The letter also attests to CalArts’ understanding that a lack of veracity is a cause for denial of Initial Institutional Approval.

Criterion 10, 11, and 12

In accordance with the Commission approved process for determining eligibility for Initial Institutional Approval, [Eligibility Criteria 10-12](#) include a staff summary of the institution's submission, but do not include a staff recommendation.

Criterion 10: Mission and Vision

- CalArts' Mission and Vision for Educator Preparation

"CalArts is a multidisciplinary community of artists. CalArts' ongoing educational endeavor is grounded in openness, experimentation, critical engagement, and creative freedom. Through artistic practice, we transform ourselves, each other, and the world. CalArts values agency, empathy, persistence, distinction, equity, rigor, diversity, inclusivity, and social justice."

CalArts is committed to educator preparation, providing training for professional artists to become exceptional TK-12 teachers in the disciplines of dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts. Through the CTE credential, teachers will gain the tools to deliver curriculum that reflect the California Arts Standards, preparing teachers with the cultural competency to provide inclusive, affirming, and equitable arts education. This pathway for multidisciplinary artists provides an invaluable opportunity for educators to share their expertise and empower youth with artistic literacy and creative skill development to become productive members of society whether they pursue the arts or other career paths."

- CalArts' submission notes that its mission and vision for educator preparation will be reflected in its proposed CTE program and are already embodied in programs like the Community Arts Partnership (CAP) and the Arts Education Minor (BFA) and Arts Education Concentration (MFA). Since 1990, CAP has provided arts education to underserved TK–12 youth across Los Angeles County through tuition-free, standards-aligned programs. It addresses equity gaps in arts education and offers CalArts students and alumni hands-on teaching experience, professional growth, and training based on the California Arts Standards. CAP emphasizes inclusion, community collaboration, and the essential role of artists as educators in society.
- The design of the CTE program will follow a constructivism learning theory (e.g., Vygotsky) and a social justice commitment to arts education as an essential area of learning for all students. Research from Aghasafari, Brezovnik, Casciano, Corbisiero-Drakos, and others has shown that arts education supports the development of key skills like communication, problem solving, decision-making, innovation, and self-awareness. It also enhances metacognition, cultural understanding, confidence, and a growth mindset. Integrating the arts into K–12 curricula has been shown to re-engage students, improve academic outcomes, increase retention and graduation rates, and foster a more positive and inclusive school environment. Additionally, access to quality arts education is a social justice issue that aligns with CalArts' mission and vision.

Criterion 11: History of Prior Experience and Effectiveness in Educator Preparation

- Founded in 1961, CalArts offers innovative, mentor-driven programs across the visual, performing, media, and literary arts. CalArts' learning environment emphasizes experimentation, individual mentorship, and close connections with practicing artists and visiting professionals. CalArts has a legacy in arts educator preparation, especially through the Community Arts Partnership (CAP), launched in 1990. CAP provides tuition-free arts education to TK–12 students across Los Angeles County, addressing systemic inequities while giving CalArts students and alumni opportunities to develop teaching skills aligned with the California Arts Standards. In 2024, CalArts introduced an Arts Education Minor (BFA) and Concentration (MFA) for students considering a career in teaching in TK–12 and higher education. These programs emphasize inclusive teaching, curriculum planning, and culturally responsive practices. Through Extended Studies, CalArts also serves a broad community of lifelong learners, offering career training, certificates, and professional development for creative professionals since 2011.
- CalArts has posted the third-party invitation for comments on the institution's website where the public and all constituencies can access it. No comments have been received at this time.
- As required by this criterion, staff researched the possibility of any additional available information relevant to CalArts' application for IIA and found none.

Criterion 12: Capacity and Resources

- As evidence of capacity and resources, CalArts has provided a copy of its most recent audited budget dated June 30, 2024, as well as a copy of a proposed operations budget for its education unit.
- CalArts has also detailed within its submission the facility resources that will be available for its candidates including the learning management system, Canvas, and the CalArts campus should the candidate need the use of meeting spaces, classrooms, or studios.
- Additionally, within the submission, CalArts has identified the job responsibilities and minimum qualifications for the program personnel and instructional support. CalArts' personnel and instructional support will consist of the following:
 - Dean, Extended Studies
 - Director of Operations, Administration and Finance, Extended Studies
 - Assistant Learning Designer
 - Operations Coordinator, Extended Studies
 - Director, Community Arts Partnership
 - Program Manager, Community Arts Partnership
 - Three faculty members responsible for developing and delivering courses in the proposed program
- CalArts' proposed CTE program will be designed for qualified arts industry professionals who have received offers of employment to teach dance, media arts, music theater, or visual arts courses requiring a CTE credential. The employer will be an essential partner in

this process. The employer will provide candidate placement and ensure that candidates receive mentoring and supervision.

Prospective candidates must provide the employment offer from the school supervisor and identify their mentor at the school. The mentor must agree to the terms as outlined on the CTE Mentorship Expectation form to ensure that the candidate will receive the required mentoring and supervision to complete the proposed program at the school where they are employed. CalArts faculty teaching the CTE core courses will collaborate with the candidate's mentor on course assessments.

- CalArts provided a teach-out plan in the submission detailing the process if the institution is unable to continue providing the proposed program.

Initial Program Preconditions

(1) Demonstration of Need:

To be granted initial program accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program sponsor must demonstrate the need for the type of program in the service area in which it will operate or a need for educators prepared through the specific program delivery model. Proposals must include data on the number of individuals currently serving on less than full credentials, where available, in the service area of the proposed program, projected need based on a needs analysis, and affirmations from employers with their anticipated hiring need for individuals with the planned credential.

Meets Precondition: Yes

How CalArts Meets the Precondition:

CalArts notes that the need to hire more teachers in the arts with a CTE credential is evident in the 2024 Lightcast job posting report, which showed 3,643 unique job postings for elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers across California in the subject areas of art, music, or dance over the past five years. CalArts further notes that while the monthly postings are cyclical, they are trending upward. This need is also demonstrated in the data provided from the California Educator Supply Data, where:

- 1,834 preliminary CTE credentials for all industries were issued by CTC in 2023-24
- From 2022 to 2024, there were 1,087 CTE upgrades from preliminary to clear credentials, an annual increase of 9.5%. In the same period, the change from preliminary to clear CTE credentials in art, media, and entertainment increased by 11.5%
- From 2019 to 2024, there was a 79.3% increase in CTE upgrades from preliminary and renewals to clear credentials in arts, media, and entertainment
- From 2022 to 2024, there were 1,547 clear credential renewals, a year-over-year increase of 38.5%

CalArts has provided letters from the following institutions affirming the hiring need for educators in possession of a CTE credential:

- William S. Hart School District

- Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet
- Newport-Mesa Unified School District

(2) Collaboration in Program Design and Implementation:

To be granted initial program accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program sponsor must demonstrate evidence of collaboration between institutions of higher education, employers of credentialed educators, and TK-12 practitioners in the design of the program. This evidence must include verification that the partners will share authority and responsibility for the implementation and continuous improvement of the proposed educator preparation program as negotiated in the partnership agreement.

Meets Precondition: Yes

How CalArts Meets the Precondition:

CalArts established a TK-12 Arts Education Program Development program design team for the proposed CTE program. The submission includes a table detailing each current member’s role in the design and includes representation from institutions of higher education and the TK-12 community. A summary of meeting minutes for the August 2024, December 2024, February 2025, and April 2025 meetings has been provided. Additionally, CalArts has provided a Memorandum of Agreement between CalArts and external collaborators on the design and implementation team for the proposed CTE program detailing the shared authority and responsibility for implementing the proposed program and for the continuous improvement of the program.

General Precondition 9

(9) Faculty and Instructional Personnel Participation

All faculty and instructional personnel employed by colleges and universities who regularly teach one or more courses in an educator preparation program leading to a credential, shall actively participate in the public school system at least once every three academic years, appropriate to their credential area. Faculty who are not in the Department, School or College of Education are exempt from this requirement. Reference: Education Code Section 44227.5 (a) and (b).

This precondition applies only to colleges and universities. Local Education Agencies do not need to address this precondition.

Meets Precondition: Yes

How CalArts Meets the Precondition:

CalArts notes that all faculty and instructional personnel who regularly teach one or more courses in educational preparation programs leading to a credential, actively participate in the public school system at least once every three academic years, appropriate to their credential area. Examples of how this requirement will be met, include the following forms of participation:

- Partnering with Los Angeles County Office (LACOE) of education to develop two “teacher of teacher” modules. One of the modules details the importance of art for learning and the other on visual arts integration. These trainings have been used to support teachers on special assignment (TOSAs) in seventy school districts and pre-service candidates at California State University, Los Angeles.
- In partnership with LACOE, launching and leading professional development for teachers with two programs including Teaching English Learners through the Arts (TELA) and Engage California English Learners through the Arts (ECELA).
- Leading school site professional development for Turnaround Arts. This project will build the capacity of teachers and principals to lead for change through the arts and train teachers to integrate the arts into other subjects, like reading, math, and science.
- Working as university field supervisors.
- Volunteering for and serving on curriculum committees at local schools in Los Angeles.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission consider the responses to the Eligibility Requirements and relevant Preconditions submitted by California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and grant eligibility.

Granting eligibility would allow CalArts to move forward to Stage III of the IIA process in which responses to the Common Standards are submitted for review. Approval of Stage II will not authorize CalArts to offer an educator preparation program that leads to a credential or license, such as the Designated Subjects: Career Technical Education credential.

If the Commission grants eligibility, it may identify topics that it will be looking for in Stage III.

If the Commission denies eligibility, it may identify what it sees as missing in the current submission in the event the institution decides to continue to work toward institutional approval.

Next Steps

Based on the Commission’s action, staff will take appropriate next steps related to the option chosen.