



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

**PUEBLO**

**TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

21 April 2026 – Summer 2026 Semester

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to explain CSU Pueblo's Teacher Education Program (TEP) regarding its accreditation, curriculum and instructor approval process, Master of Education pathway, program evaluation, and evidence of rigor. CSU Pueblo is proud of all its academic programs, including our TEP Educational Partners to offer rigorous graduate education to serve educators across the country and around the world.

### **Accreditation**

When selecting an institution for graduate education, accreditation is one of the most important factors to consider. But which kind of accreditation is best? For academics, regional accreditation is generally considered the most valuable and prestigious (e.g. see article from Drexel University: <https://www.online.drexel.edu/news/national-vs-regional-accreditation.aspx>). CSU Pueblo is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Validation of our accreditation status can be found here: <https://www.csupueblo.edu/accreditation/index.html>. Programs within the School of Education are also accredited by the International Dyslexia Association and the Colorado Department of Education. Validation can be found here: <https://dyslexiaida.org/university-programs-accredited-by-ida/> and here, respectively: [https://www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent/educator\\_preparation\\_search\\_engine](https://www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent/educator_preparation_search_engine).

HLC as a regional accreditor is a more powerful accreditation tool for course transfer and recognition in higher education than national accreditation. It facilitates more advanced degree pathways, as graduate program enrollment requires a degree from a regionally accredited institution. The HLC has even required a separate approval process for each partnership we have to ensure quality, rigor, and demonstrate it is truly graduate-level learning. National accreditation does not guarantee this, partly because the number of accrediting agencies has grown, with little standardization across them for quality and rigor. This ensures that any course taken would be able to transfer to any other regionally accredited institution due to its rigor and quality.

### **Curriculum and Instructor Approval Process**

All graduate courses and instructors from TEP partners go through a rigorous approval process at CSU Pueblo by being approved by the Dean of the College of Health and Education and the Dean of the Division of Extended Studies. We have a staff member whose sole job is to evaluate all course work for graduate-level learning and to comply with HLC requirements for time and effort per credit hour, rigor of assignments and assessments, and that all curriculum is indeed graduate-level learning.

Furthermore, instructors must meet the expectations and requirements of HLC to be qualified to teach graduate level courses. We hold these individuals to the same credential standards as any other instructor at our institution. As such, as an employee of our TEP partners, each instructor is part of the instructional faculty of CSU Pueblo by virtue of their teaching assignment with us.

### **Master of Education Pathways**

CSU Pueblo, in collaboration with our TEP partners, is proud to offer high-quality courses that are transferrable to any institution of higher education towards graduate certificates and degree programs, but what is most exciting is that these courses count towards CSU Pueblo's Master of Education (M.Ed.).

We have approval from HLC to accept 18 credits from our TEP educational partners for the content area specialization credits within our M.Ed. program, which allows students to use their ED 501, RDG 501, ECE 501, SPED 501, and CLDE 501 taken with our TEP partners towards their content area specialization.

Transcripts will reflect a student being enrolled in multiple ED 501 courses, for example, but this allows us to effectively list all possible electives for content area specializations. Various TEP partners will also have their own numbering system for tracking, which will be reflected in the course title and on their websites. On a transcript, while there may be multiple ED 501 sections, they are distinct. A student cannot get credit for the same course.

While our ED 500 courses do not fulfill requirements for the M.Ed. program with its satisfactory-unsatisfactory grading scale, these are still graduate level professional development workshops.

Further information about the M.Ed. program can be found in the CSU Pueblo catalog, which can be found at <https://catalog.csupueblo.edu/>.

### **Program Evaluation and Evidence of Rigor**

While the assignments and assessments for the courses are quite varied, all courses must engage students with professional literature. They must be reading current, peer-reviewed journal articles that deal with cutting edge topics. All courses must also engage the students for a certain number of contact hours across the assignments and assessments to exceed the standards of our regional accreditation body. One of the employees on our team is responsible for checking the quality of the courses to ensure that it not only meets but exceeds these standards. All courses must also include a robust assessment plan, but what the assessments are can vary from course to course. All curriculum is required to have the rigor of a typical graduate course that we would accept at our institution.

In addition to program accreditation requirements, CSU Pueblo has embarked on its own secondary evaluation process of our TEP courses, compiling additional student work samples and furthering its assessment of the program to ensure it is high quality and meets both HLC accreditation standards and internal assessment standards. From last year's data (n=463), we learned that over 90% of all students were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the following dimensions of our courses: Their Overall Quality, Their Rigor, Their Relevance, and Their Content. One of the more common comments we get about our graduate program is that it is "transformative." We consider these data as powerful testaments to the quality and value of our courses and hope it will help you as well.

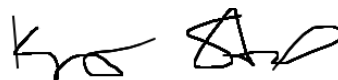
We are deeply committed to the preparation and development of all educators. We only engage in educational collaborations with partners who add meaningful value to our students, supporting both their ongoing professional development and their pursuit of our M.Ed. program.

We encourage you to reach out to us if you have further questions.

With warm regards,



Dr. Jeff Piquette  
Dean, College of Health and Education



Dr. Kathryn Starkey  
Dean, Extended Studies