



What is a program?

TEAC accredits programs that prepare professional educators who will teach and lead in the nation's schools, grades pre-K–12. Naturally, TEAC can accredit only those education programs for which there is evidence that the graduates are competent, caring, and qualified.

The *Inquiry Brief* or *Inquiry Brief Proposal* is about a single program, but, in the TEAC system, a *single program* may include several license areas, options, and levels if they share a common logic, structure, quality control system, and similar and comparable categories of evidence. Thus, if an institution has two or more education programs, some or all of them might be submitted for accreditation within a *Brief* as a single program. In cases where the state requires that all education programs be accredited, the faculty should use the criteria below to determine whether to bundle some or all of the institution's programs as a single program for accreditation or treat them in separate *Inquiry Briefs* or *Inquiry Brief Proposals*. Faculty should consider the following three factors in their decision:

1. **Program structure.** Those programs that have essentially the same requirements, rationale, logic, and faculty can be presented in a single *Brief*.
2. **Quality control system.** Programs that share the same quality control system can usually be presented in a single *Brief*.
3. **Evidence.** Programs for which the evidence is comparable and can be honestly aggregated can be presented in a single *Brief*.

Even if the programs are registered with the state separately or lead to different professional licenses, they can nevertheless be bundled as a single program for TEAC accreditation if they satisfy each of the three conditions above. They would be treated as a single program, but one that has multiple options, areas, levels, and license outcomes.

If the institution's education programs are dissimilar in their underlying logic or in the nature of the evidence for the TEAC quality principles, the institution must submit separate *Briefs* for each distinct program.

TEAC will review for accreditation *only* those professional education programs for which the institution has evidence to support its claims. It is possible, therefore, that some of the institution's teacher education programs would have TEAC accreditation and others would not. Those that do not would simply remain unaccredited, and the institution would have to accept the consequences of their relative status. Programs that cannot provide convincing evidence should not benefit undeservedly from their association with programs that have solid evidence and have earned accreditation.

Note that TEAC's protocol agreements with most states, however, require that the institution submit all its education programs for accreditation review. Also, in some protocol agreements states recognize TEAC accreditation for terms that differ from TEAC's award.