NCATE Self-Evaluation

NCATE’s recognition by the U.S. Department of Education requires NCATE to conduct its own periodic self-studies. The recognition process includes a review of documentation collected from institutions and reports written by Board of Examiners teams and the Unit Accreditation Board as well as NCATE’s own policies, minutes, and publications. Personnel from the Department of Education also observe board meetings and one or more BOE team visits. The process provides helpful feedback for improving NCATE’s accreditation work.

In addition to the reviews of NCATE conducted by the Department of Education, NCATE engages in ongoing self-evaluation of its procedures and of its Board of Examiners members. Each institution that undergoes an accreditation visit is asked to complete an evaluation of NCATE’s accreditation procedures, including contacts with NCATE staff. Institutions also evaluate the performance and professionalism of the Board of Examiners team that conducted the accreditation visit.

Members of Board of Examiners teams complete an evaluation of the procedures and reference materials that guide the on-site accreditation visit. They are also asked to evaluate the performance of their fellow team members. In addition, Board of Examiners members undergoing NCATE training in the conduct of initial or continuing accreditation visits complete evaluations of each phase of the training.

The results of these evaluations are compiled and presented to the Unit Accreditation Board twice a year. Procedures may be modified or new policies introduced based on the results of these evaluations. Evaluations of BOE team members are used to monitor, on a continuous basis, the overall performance of the Board of Examiners, as well as to identify those individuals who are not performing adequately, as well as those with the skills necessary to serve as team chairs.

The Unit Accreditation Board completes evaluations of the Board of Examiners reports submitted each fall and spring semester, in an effort to continuously improve the quality of reports. These evaluations are returned to the team members who compiled the report. The UAB monitors the quality of BOE reports over time in order to identify any weak areas of reporting that may require additional review in training sessions.