

VSBE

Date: May 20, 2021

Item: Middlebury Two-Year Report

ITEM: Shall the VSBE approve Middlebury's Two-Year Report and grant continued full approval to their Elementary Education, English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies programs, and change the approval from Conditional to Full for their Art and Modern and Classical Languages (French, German, Russian, and Spanish) programs, until their next scheduled ROPA review in 2025?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBE approve Middlebury's Two-Year Report and grant continued full approval to their Elementary Education, English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies programs, and change the approval from Conditional to Full for their Art and Modern and Classical Languages (French, German, Russian, and Spanish) programs, until their next scheduled ROPA review in 2025.

BACKGROUND: Middlebury had a full ROPA review in November, 2018. Their Elementary Education, English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies programs were all recommended for, and granted, full approval, pending the successful submission of a Two-Year Report outlining how they addressed the concerns from their ROPA report. Their Art, Computer Science, and Modern and Classical Language programs were recommended for and granted Conditional Approval. At the March 2021 VSBE meeting, Middlebury presented evidence in support of upgrading the approval for the Art and Language programs from Conditional to Full, and informed the Board that they would not seek ongoing approval for the Computer Science program. The Board voted to extend the Conditional Approval for the Art and Language programs until Dec. 31, 2021, or until Middlebury presented additional evidence as to the pedagogy coursework for those two programs.

RATIONALE: Middlebury has presented adequate evidence that they have been making an effort to address the concerns of the review team. Understandably, it has been a challenge to spend as much time on the ROPA concerns as they might have done in a normal year. However, they have presented evidence of having either met the concerns or being in process of doing so. My communication with Tara Affolter, Middlebury's licensure officer, around both the earlier report addressing the concerns

of the Art and Languages programs, as well as this Two-Year Review Report, has been productive. Tara has answered all of my questions: for example, when I initially reviewed this report, I was not sure if the evidence that was presented in the Report was new, or if it was a recap of what they had already been doing during the ROPA review. Tara let me know that most of it was new evidence that was a result of the ROPA concerns, and she revised the Report to add clarity around that.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Middlebury's Two-Year Report