

VSBE

Date: March 11, 2021

Item: Middlebury Conditional Approval Review

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE approve Middlebury's request to change their current approval status for Art Education, Computer Science Education, and Modern and Classical Language Education from Conditional to Full?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE not approve Middlebury's request to change their current approval status for Art Education and Modern and Classical Language Education from Conditional to Full; and shall extend the Conditional approval until Dec. 31, 2021 to allow for a more thorough follow-up review to be conducted, including the receipt and review of the full Two-Year Report. Middlebury has indicated they will drop the Computer Science approval, since there are still no candidates in that program.

BACKGROUND: Middlebury had a full ROPA review in November of 2018, and the Board approved the team's recommendation to grant full approval to all programs previously approved with the exception of Art, Computer Science, and Modern and Classical Languages. Those programs were granted one-year conditional approval in March 2019 (when the report was finalized, and the Board voted on it). Due to turnover of the licensure officer at Middlebury, as well as Covid, there was a delay in submitting the evidence for the follow-up review. It was submitted in January 2021.

The reason that these programs were given conditional approval is that Middlebury had few or no candidates go through the programs since their last review, so they could not produce any evidence of outcomes, and in fact presented very little evidence at all for those programs.

Just prior to the review in 2018, the college changed its policy, and for the first time allowed students to declare double majors. That has led to more interest in the Education department, and specifically in these three programs, especially Art and Modern and Classical Languages. Thus, Middlebury would like to keep those two programs.

RATIONALE: The evidence presented does not adequately show that the pedagogy competencies for each program are covered. Because Middlebury has a relatively small number of candidates in the program, they all take the same Methods course. Without speaking with the professor of that course as well as some candidates who are or have taken it for Art and Languages, we are not able to confirm that the specialized pedagogy competencies are being covered adequately. In addition, there were several concerns listed on the ROPA report for all of the Education department programs, and we recommend waiting to see how those are

addressed in the Two-Year Report, which is due this spring, before recommending full approval for the three programs currently on conditional approval. It is a condition of ongoing full approval for the rest of Middlebury's programs to meet the concerns in the ROPA report, so it seems premature to grant full approval to the three programs prior to ensuring the concerns have been met.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Letter from Middlebury, completed transcript review forms for all three endorsement areas, course sequences and descriptions for some of the courses shown, ROPA report showing concerns from 2018 review.