

CAEP Response to Request for Good Cause Extension

Completed by Staff and Submitted in AIMS

EPP: Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (PA)	
Reviewed By: CAEP Leadership	Contact Information: ben.frattini@caepnet.org
Scheduled Visit Semester: Fall 2026	Previous Visit Type: Continuing
Requested Visit Semester: Fall 2028	Requested Length of Extension: Two Years

 X Request Approved

Approved New Visit Semester: Fall 2028	Approved Length of Extension: ___ one semester ___ one year <u> X </u> two years
Semester of Following Visit: Fall 2033	CAEP maintains a 7-year accreditation cycle. The semester of the visit following a rescheduled visit will be based on the visit semester originally scheduled by the Accreditation Council.

Basis for Granting the Extension:

- X State or federal standards or legislation requiring significant programmatic change
___ Substantive changes – please see CAEP Accreditation Policy 6.02: Substantive Changes for details (see Policy XIII, Substantive Change)
 X Other extenuating circumstances such as, an Act of God, natural disaster, or civil unrest

Due to the length of the Good Cause Extension request, this request was reviewed by the EPP Transparency, Accountability, and Improvement Committee of the CAEP Accreditation Council. The Committee and then the full Accreditation Council voted to approve the two-year Good Cause Extension as a result of both difficulties surrounding the three-EPP merger as well as complications and delays with the state program review process, as mentioned and supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Please contact Ben Frattini (ben.frattini@caepnet.org) if you would like to discuss the basis for this decision further.



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Office of the President

September 26, 2022

Amy M. Eitzen, Ed.D.
Associate Dean, College of Education
Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania
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570-389-2727

Dear Amy:

I am writing in follow up to our past communications regarding the recent merger of three entities, which led to the establishment of the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Commonwealth), the status of Commonwealth's accreditation by CAEP, and the timeline required for Commonwealth to undergo a re-accreditation review. This letter addresses your request to have Commonwealth's review take place in Fall 2026 and provides information on additional requirements applicable to Commonwealth.

Because the merger involved the integration of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania (Lock Haven), an NCATE-accredited EPP, and Mansfield University of Pennsylvania (Mansfield), an EPP without any accreditation status under CAEP, into Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg) a CAEP-accredited EPP, and because Bloomsburg is now Commonwealth, Commonwealth assumes the accreditation status and term of Bloomsburg.

CAEP policy states that if 2 or more CAEP-accredited EPPs merge, subject to the approval of the state, country, or other governing authority under which the surviving EPP operates, the next review will be scheduled to take place on the timeline established for the review of the EPP with the shortest remaining term. The term of accreditation granted Lock Haven would, if Lock Haven continued to operate, extend to the end of 2023. As such, Commonwealth should be subject to the re-accreditation review schedule that would have applied to Lock Haven.

You indicated on September 16th that Commonwealth is developing new programs and is in the process of aligning competencies in the new curricula so students from the former three institutions can take equivalent new courses rather than teaching out progressively small numbers of students each year. We understand this is a work in progress as you develop curriculum for the 2023-24 academic year. In light of the work that is underway, I am waiving Accreditation Policy V.5.02(a), which requires an accreditation review to take place on the timeline applicable to the EPP with the shortest remaining term, and granting your request for CAEP's accreditation review of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania to take place in Fall 2026.

Please also note that Accreditation Policy requires an EPP, in communicating with candidates (students of the EPP), faculty, other stakeholders, and the public about its accreditation status and term, to distinguish accurately between programs that are accredited, as a result of having been included in the scope of review, and those that are not. As Commonwealth is continuing to operate programs previously administered by Lock Haven and Mansfield, rather than teaching out students enrolled in those programs, Commonwealth must, in addition to meeting all requirements for continuing accreditation, make full disclosure in any communication about Commonwealth's accreditation by CAEP, that any programs not included in a CAEP accreditation review are not CAEP-accredited.

We hope this provides clarity with the situation, but we would be happy to arrange another conversation if you feel that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris A. Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Christopher Koch, Ed.D.
President