



## **Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

1900 Capitol Avenue Sacramento, CA 95811 (916) 322-6253 Fax (916) 445-0800 [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)  
*Professional Services Division*

August 18, 2021

Jilliene Orcutt,  
Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and  
Dean of University Extension and Summer Session  
University of California, Merced  
5200 North Lake Rd.  
Merced, CA 95343

Dear Dean Orcutt:

I am pleased to inform you that on August 6, 2021, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing granted full Institutional Approval to the University of California, Merced.

The specific action taken by the Commission was to approve UC Merced for Institutional Approval with the requirement that the institution address all stipulations identified in the site visit team report within the timeframe designated and report back to the Committee on Accreditation (COA) for further consideration and action. Please continue to work with Bob Loux of our staff to ensure that these stipulations are addressed.

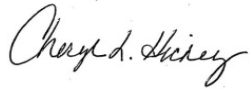
Once your institution has addressed the stipulations and the COA has taken action to remove these stipulations, your institution will be a member of the Violet cohort. The color cohort system identifies the types of activities that each Commission approved program sponsor must do during the 7-year accreditation cycle. For information regarding the [Accreditation Schedule and Activities](#), please refer to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing's website.

It is important to note that although coursework for the credential programs at UC Merced is offered through UC Extension, UC Extension on its own is not eligible to offer educator preparation programs. Only regionally accredited institutions of higher education are authorized to serve as Commission approved program sponsors. As such, the Commission's approval is for UC Merced. Several years ago when the Commission granted UC Merced provisional approval to offer educator preparation programs, it was noted that although UC Merced did not have a School, College, or Department of Education at the main campus and sought to offer credential programs through its Extension, a creative solution had been offered in that the programs would be overseen by the regionally accredited UC Merced campus. Key program personnel in Extension report directly to leadership at the UC Merced campus, faculty employed in the main campus would review and approve all coursework and requirements for the credential programs, and a committee structure comprised of leadership in the academic

departments at the main campus would have an oversight role. These unique aspects of UC Merced's structure were further confirmed at the 2021 provisional site visit. These aspects are raised here to ensure that UC Merced understands the unique situation by which these programs have been determined to be eligible to be offered by UC Merced Extension. Should any aspects of this arrangement change, we ask that you contact us immediately to discuss further.

Should you or your staff have any questions relating to this action, please feel free to contact me at [accreditation@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:accreditation@ctc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Hickey".

Cheryl Hickey  
Administrator of Accreditation

cc: Marianna Harris, Director of Education Programs at UC Merced Extension  
Marissa Luna Lopez, Associate Director of the Teacher Preparation Program

CH/mb