



# Preconditions

This session will focus on the requirements, content, and purpose of the preconditions for accreditation.



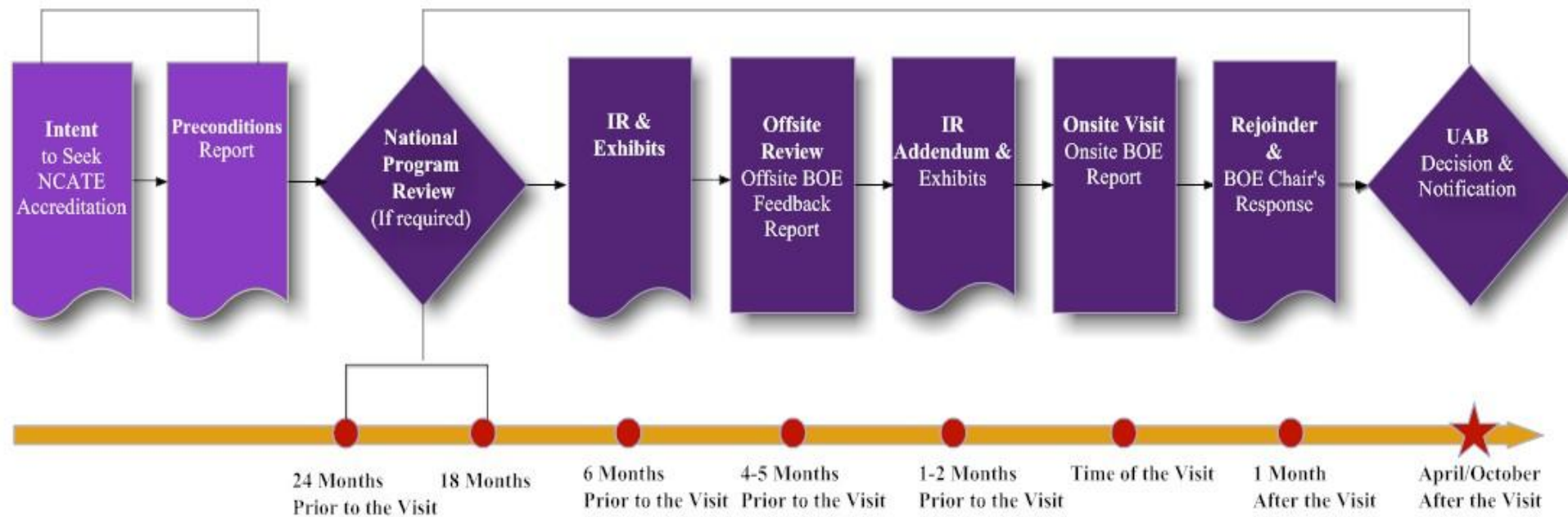
# NCATE Redesign: Continuous Improvement Option\*




Units with Visits in Fall 2011 through Spring 2013

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

Institution Seeking Accreditation for the First Time

Continuous Improvement Option for First and Continuing Accreditation



-  = Document
-  = Process
-  = Decision
- BOE = Board of Examiners
- IR = Institutional Report
- UAB = Unit Accreditation Board

\*NCATE Institutions are required to submit an *Annual Report* each year.





# Candidacy for Accreditation

## Purpose

The preconditions ensure that an education unit seeking NCATE accreditation for the first time has met fundamental requirements that undergird NCATE's standards for accreditation.

## Requirement

A precandidate must meet each of NCATE's preconditions before it becomes an official candidate for accreditation.



# List of Preconditions



The [List of Preconditions](#) is available on the NCATE website



# Precondition 1

Professional education unit

The institution recognizes a **professional education unit** that has responsibility and authority for the preparation of teachers and other school professionals, and identifies a unit head such as a dean, director, or chair.





# Precondition 2

Policies and procedures

Written **policies and procedures** guide the operations of the unit and include published criteria for admission to and exit from all initial teacher preparation and advanced programs.





# Precondition 3

## National program review

If the institution is located in a non-partner state or in a partner state that requires the submission of **program reports for national review** through NCATE, the unit has committed to submitting program reports for each program for which NCATE has approved program standards at least one year prior to the visit.





# Precondition 4

Conceptual framework and assessment system

The unit has a well developed **conceptual framework** that establishes the shared vision for a unit's efforts in preparing educators to work in P-12 schools and provides direction for programs, courses, teaching, candidates performance, scholarship, service, and unit accountability.







# Precondition 5

Program approval



The unit's **programs are approved** by the appropriate state agency or agencies, and in states with educator licensing examinations and required pass rates, the unit's summary pass rate meets or exceeds the required state **pass rate**.

# Precondition 6

Institutional/regional accreditation


Institutions eligible for **institutional or regional accreditation** are accredited without probation or an equivalent status by the appropriate institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions not eligible for accreditation have a **clean audit, appropriate business plan, and effective organizational practices** similar to an accredited institution.





# Additional Information on Precondition 4

- 4.1** A **brief description** provides an overview of the unit's conceptual framework.
- 4.2** The **vision and mission** of both the institution and unit are clearly described.
- 4.3** The unit's **philosophy, purposes, and goals/organizational** standards support its conceptual framework.
- 4.4** **Knowledge bases**, including theories, research, the wisdom of practice, and education policies support the unit's conceptual framework.
- 4.5** **Candidate proficiencies** related to expected knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions, including proficiencies associated with diversity and technology, are aligned with the expectations in professional, state, and institutional standards.
- 4.6** A summarized description of the **unit's assessment system**.



# Additional Information on Precondition 4 (cont.)

**4.6** A summarized description of the unit's assessment system includes descriptions of

1. the transition points;
2. key assessments;
3. process for assuring the unit's assessments are fair, accurate, consistent, and free from bias;
4. system for handling candidates who have not met unit expectations;
5. plan for evaluating unit operations;
6. summary of candidate performance on assessments conducted for admission into programs; and
7. summary of a sample of candidate performance at exit.



# Formatting Guidelines

## All preconditions

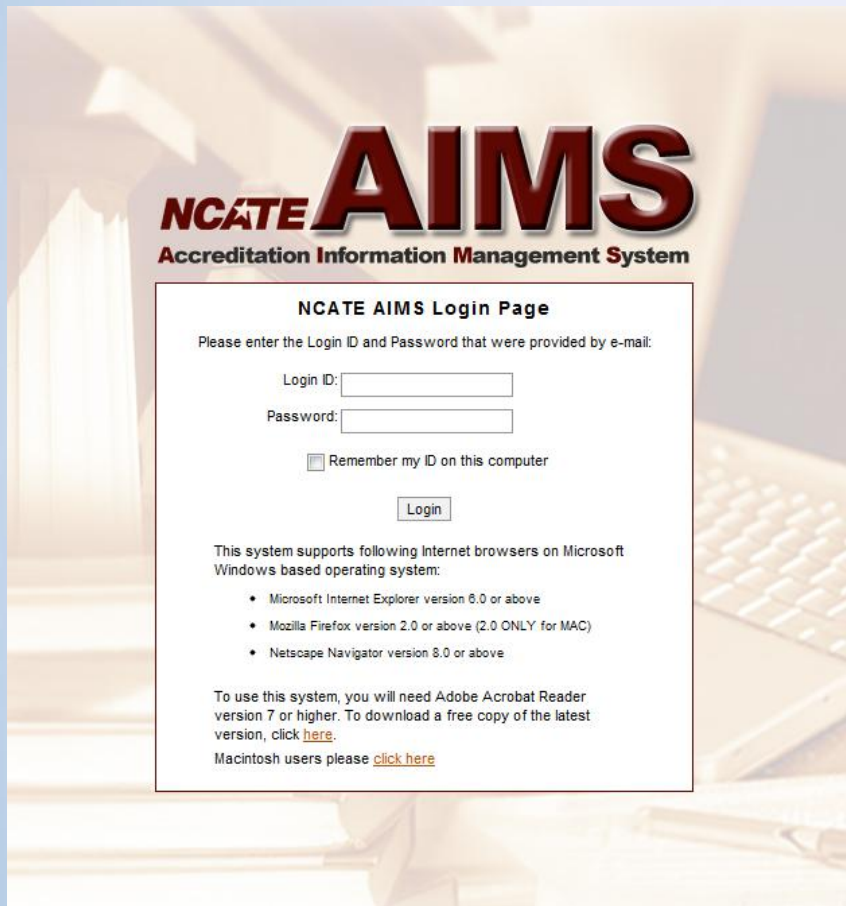
- Include a table of contents
- Number all pages
- Use a consistent font size
- Label each supporting document to match the list of preconditions (e.g., 1.2, 3.1, or 4.4)
- Source documents:
  - Submit relevant pages rather than the full document
  - Indicate the name (e.g., *Faculty Handbook*) and date
- Ensure that documentation can stand on its own without the documentation for other preconditions
- Scanned letters (PDF format) are acceptable
- Submit separate files

## Additional guidelines for Precondition 4

- Recommended length of less than 40 pages, including tables and appendices
- Submit one file

The [formatting guidelines](#) are available on the NCATE website.

# Submitting the Preconditions Report

A screenshot of the NCATE AIMS Login Page. The page features the NCATE AIMS logo at the top, with 'NCATE' in a smaller font and 'AIMS' in a large, bold, red font. Below the logo, the text 'Accreditation Information Management System' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'NCATE AIMS Login Page' and contains a login form. The form includes a prompt: 'Please enter the Login ID and Password that were provided by e-mail:'. There are two input fields: 'Login ID:' and 'Password:'. Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'Remember my ID on this computer'. A 'Login' button is positioned below the checkbox. At the bottom of the form, there is a section titled 'This system supports following Internet browsers on Microsoft Windows based operating system:' followed by a bulleted list of supported browsers: 'Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.0 or above', 'Mozilla Firefox version 2.0 or above (2.0 ONLY for MAC)', and 'Netscape Navigator version 3.0 or above'. Below the browser list, there is a note: 'To use this system, you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader version 7 or higher. To download a free copy of the latest version, click [here](#).' and 'Macintosh users please [click here](#)'.

- Workspace in AIMS
- Directions on uploading into AIMS will be emailed