On July 1, 2013, the National Council for Accreditation Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) merged to form the CAEP.

NCATE was founded in 1954 by five national education groups to accredit teacher certification programs at U.S. institutions.

TEAC was founded in 1997 to improve academic degree programs for professional educators.

NCATE and TEAC are subsidiaries of CAEP but maintain their national recognition so Education Preparation Providers (EPPs) remain accredited until the time the EPPs come up for accreditation under CAEP.

Mission is to advance excellent educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement.

EPPs seeking accreditation must conduct a self-study and host a site visit.

While completing the self-study, an EPP selects one of three pathways: Continuous Improvement (CI), Inquiry Brief (IB), or Transformation Initiative (TI).

- The Continuous Improvement pathway allows an EPP to focus on its own improvement in a specific standard or standards.
- The Inquiry Brief pathway demonstrates that an EPP not only meets CAEP standards, but uses evidence that meets research standards of validity and reliability.
- The Transformation Initiative pathway focuses on the improvement of the profession through an EPP’s research of their own successful practices.

Until the Spring of 2016, EPPs can choose whether they want to be evaluated on NCATE, TEAC, or CAEP principles, or a combination of them.

CAEP has five standards for accreditation:

- **Content and Pedagogical Knowledge** - Understanding of critical concepts and core activities of teaching.
- **Clinical Partnerships and Practice** - Chances must be given to aspiring teachers to improve and demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
- **Candidate Quality, Recruitment, and Selectivity** - Able to attract high-quality candidates to become new, quality teachers.
- **Program Impact** - Candidate mastery of knowledge and skills necessary for effective teaching.
- **Provider Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement** - A system is in place to ensure and measure continuous improvement.