



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
Castleton University

DATE: October 4, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for Castleton University, Vermont?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its October 2018 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Regents permission to operate in New York State is required by §224 of the Education Law which prohibits out-of-state colleges and universities from transacting business in New York without Regents permission. §6908 of the Education Law restricts the practice of nursing to licensed persons or students enrolled in educational programs registered by State Education Department.

Background Information

In 2012, the Board of Regents granted Castleton University permission to operate to place students from its licensure-qualifying A.S. Nursing program in New York for supervised clinical experience. This program was discontinued in 2016. In May 2018, the University submitted request for approval to place students from its licensure-qualifying B.S. degree program in Nursing and the post-licensure RN to B.S. completion program in Nursing at Glens Falls Hospital in New York.

Castleton University, the 18th oldest institution of higher education in the United States, emphasizes undergraduate liberal arts and professional education while also offering selected graduate programs. The University has been accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) since 1961. It is committed to supporting and improving regional communities and lies approximately 10 miles from the border of New York and 38 miles from Glens Falls.

The four-year license-qualifying nursing program is 122 credits. Of these 122 credits, 69 credits are upper level nursing courses (50 credits of theory and 19 credits of lab/clinical). Students complete 180 hours skills lab (Health Assessment; Fundamentals of Nursing; Critical Health Care Scenarios) and 690 hours of clinical experience. The RN to B.S two-year completion program includes a total of 41 upper level credits (35 credits in theory and 6 credits in clinical/lab). Students complete 45 hours skills lab and 210 hours of clinical experience. The nursing programs have the approval of the Vermont Board of Nursing and have been granted continued accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) since November 2013.

The original request from the University was to place 98 students per academic year in New York. In response to objections from New York institutions in the canvass process, the University now requests to place a total of 30 students (24 from the four-year licensure qualifying program; and 6 from the two-year completion program) in Glens Falls Hospital each academic year. Students from the four-year program will be placed during the mother-baby practicum (fall semester) and medical surgical practicum (spring semester). Each practicum is eight weeks long and there are two sessions of practicum each semester. Six students will be placed in each session of the practicum (two sessions each semester; four sessions each academic year). Students from the two-year completion program will engage in a precepted clinical experience with a clinical nurse leader. Faculty members with unencumbered, active, New York State RN license and Master of Science degrees will provide clinical instruction and supervision of the students. The faculty member supervising the mother-baby practicum also holds a pediatric nurse practitioner certificate.

Canvass Results: As mentioned previously, the University originally sought placement for a maximum of 98 students per academic year at Glens Falls Hospital. A canvass of all the regional institutions was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. Responses were received from three institutions, all in opposition of the proposed number of students. Consequently, Castleton University amended the request to place a total of 30 students in New York. We sought comments

from the institutions that objected the original request and no objections were received regarding the amended request.

Department Review: The Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Staff have determined that there would be no reduction in access to clinical experiences at the cooperating facility if authorization is granted.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the request from Castleton University for permission to operate, effective October 19, 2018, which authorizes Castleton University to use Glens Falls Hospital in New York for clinical education of 24 students from its licensure-qualifying Nursing program leading to the B.S. degree and of 6 students from its RN to B.S. completion program in Nursing leading to the B.S. degree each academic year.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until July 1, 2023.