



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Frank Muñoz

SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing

DATE: March 21, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its April 2011 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Regents permission to operate in New York State is required by Section 224 of the Education Law which prohibits out-of-state colleges and universities from transacting business in New York without Regents permission.

Background Information

The Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing is seeking Regents permission to operate in New York State in order to place its students in health care agencies for supervised clinical experiences in its Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree programs titled Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse-Midwifery and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Permission is

also requested for placement of students enrolled in the School's post-master's Advanced Certificate programs in the aforementioned specialty areas. Article 140 of the Education Law restricts the practice of midwifery to licensed persons or students enrolled in educational programs that the State Education Department has registered. Section 6908 of the Education Law restricts the practice of nursing to licensed persons or students enrolled in educational programs that the State Education Department has registered. The School's Nurse-Midwifery program is accredited by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The D.N.P. and M.S.N. degree programs and post-master's Advanced Certificate programs in family health and women's health are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. The School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is licensed by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer the programs for which permission to operate in New York is being requested. The programs meet the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate effective April 5, 2011, which authorizes the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing to use clinical agencies in New York for clinical education of students in its M.S.N. and D.N.P degree programs and post-master's Advanced Certificate programs titled Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse-Midwifery and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until April 30, 2016.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATION

Nurse-Midwifery

Section 6951 of the Education Law defines midwifery as “the management of normal pregnancies, childbirth and postpartum care as well as primary preventive reproductive health care of essentially healthy women as specified in the written practice agreement and shall include newborn evaluation, resuscitation, and referral of infants.” Pursuant to a written agreement with an obstetrician, a midwife is authorized to “prescribe and administer drugs, immunizing agents, diagnostic tests and devices, and to order laboratory tests.”

The Nurse-Midwifery program at the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing is designed to prepare clinically competent nurse-midwives who provide community-based, family-centered primary health care to women. Classroom and clinical work focuses on the management of primary care; care for women and newborns during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum periods; and family planning and gynecological care. Students learn collaborative management of the care of women and newborns with complications. Didactic course work is delivered using a web-based, distance education model that allows students to meet the programs’ educational objectives without leaving their communities. Courses are taught in 12-week terms, with full-time students expected to complete the M.S.N. program in 24 months and part-time students expected to complete the program in 36 months. The post-baccalaureate D.N.P. program can be completed in 45 months of full-time study or 68 months of part-time study. Clinical experiences are designed to occur in the students communities. Students are required to come to the School’s Hyden, Kentucky campus twice during their enrollment. The first trip is for a three-day orientation to the program where students are introduced to the skills needed to effectively use the distance education format, review the curriculum plan and plan for their progression through the program. The second trip to the campus, during which students complete 2 weeks of intensive skills training, occurs after completion of 47 credits of didactic course work and prior to entry into the clinical practicum courses.

The Nurse-Midwifery program was granted initial approval by the Board of Regents in December 1995 to use clinical facilities in New York for a five-year period. This approval lapsed at the end of December 2000 and remained so until the current request. This request involves the placement of up to six nurse-midwifery students (M.S.N. and post-master’s Advanced Certificate) in New York facilities for 675 clock hours of preceptored experiences over 4 semesters. Historically, the School has not had more than six students a year who have requested placement in New York facilities for completion of their midwifery clinical practicum courses. The School has agreements with 29 facilities for clinical experiences, which it uses on a rotating basis to accommodate students in various geographic areas of the state. A list of the facilities with which agreements have been established is enclosed. Typically the School places only one student at each facility. Clinical placements will be for 4 courses that are part of a 15-credit clinical practicum sequence. Each nurse-midwifery student will be precepted by a senior nurse-midwife on staff at the participating agency. Preceptors must be nationally certified in midwifery. Preceptors will be responsible for completing a

competency-based written evaluation for each student. A Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing faculty member is designated as a Regional Clinical Coordinator for New York responsible for maintaining contact with students at New York facilities, as well as serving as a resource for the clinical preceptors. The Regional Coordinator has a master's degree in nursing and is certified as a Nurse-Midwife.

The Nurse-Midwifery program leading to the M.S.N. degree requires completion of 66 semester hours of credit (51 didactic and 15 clinical) that includes a total of 675 clinical contact hours. Students take core course work in health assessment, pharmacology, pathophysiology, nursing research and nursing theory, and complete 48 credits of course work in the area of specialization. The post-baccalaureate Nurse-Midwifery program leading to the D.N.P. degree requires completion of an additional 33 semester hours of credit (25 didactic and 8 clinical) beyond the 66 semester hours of course work required for completion of the M.S.N. degree. This course work includes an additional 360 clinical contact hours. The post-master's Advanced Certificate program requires completion of 51 semester hours of credit (36 didactic and 15 clinical) that includes 675 clinical contact hours. Graduates of each program are eligible to become certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

There are two nurse-midwifery programs (programs that restrict admission to registered nurses) and two direct-entry programs at four New York universities. Two of the four are independent: Columbia University and New York University. The other two are State University campuses: The State University of New York at Stony Brook and the Health Science Center at Brooklyn.

Like programs preparing practitioners in other professions, nurse-midwifery programs typically use a large number of health facilities for students' clinical experiences. These facilities may be in several states. Because of statutes like New York's that restrict practice by students to those enrolled in state approved programs, institutions must undergo a variety of state review processes to assure lawful practice by students. In New York, this entails receiving the Regents permission to operate and Department registration of the program so that a small number of students each year may practice in the State.

Nurse Practitioner

The request for approval to offer clinical courses in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) M.S.N., D.N.P and post-master's Advanced Certificate programs at facilities in New York is the School's initial request regarding these programs. This request is for the placement of up to 4 nurse practitioner students (M.S.N. and post-master's Advanced Certificate) in New York facilities for 675 clock hours of preceptored experiences over 4 semesters. The post-baccalaureate D.N.P. program, which requires completion of a total of 1,035 clinical contact hours, currently does not have any New York residents enrolled in it. For the length of the pending approval period, it is expected that any D.N.P. students will enter as post-master's students needing to complete an additional 360 clinical contact hours over 2 academic terms.

The delivery format for the nurse practitioner programs is identical to that described for the nurse-midwifery degree and certificate programs. The FNP master's degree program requires completion of 57 semester hours of credit (42 didactic and 15 clinical) and the WHNP program requires completion of 53 semester hours of credit (38 didactic and 15 clinical). Each requires completion of 675 hours of clinical experiences that are preceptored by nurse practitioners or physicians who have practices in the respective specialty areas. Nurse practitioners who have national certification in their specialty area are to be the primary preceptors for the students. A Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing faculty member is designated as a Regional Clinical Coordinator for New York responsible for maintaining contact with students at New York facilities, as well as serving as a resource for the clinical preceptors. The Regional Coordinator has a master's degree in nursing, a D.N.P. degree and is certified as an FNP. As with the Nurse-Midwifery D.N.P. program, FNP and WHNP students enrolled in the D.N.P. program must complete 33 semester hours of credit and 360 preceptored clinical contact hours beyond what is required for completion of M.S.N. program requirements. The FNP post-master's certificate program is a 41-credit offering consisting of 26 didactic and 15 clinical credits. The 35-credit WHNP post-master's certificate program includes 20 didactic and 15 clinical credits. Graduates of these programs are eligible to apply for national certification in their specialty areas of practice.

Staff have determined that there would be no reduction in access to clinical experiences at cooperating facilities if authorization is granted for the nurse-midwifery and nurse practitioner programs. Because of the limited nature of the School's authorization to operate in New York State, it should have no effect on New York institutions.

The Office of the Professions has determined that the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Enclosure

**Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing
List of Proposed Clinical Sites**

	Site Name	City
1	Bassett Healthcare Cobleskill	Cobleskill
2	Cayuga Family Medicine	Ithaca
3	Clementine Midwifery	Brooklyn
4	Community Midwifery	Brooklyn
5	Cortland Regional	Cortland
6	Dr. Ira Weissman, PC	Malone
7	Erie County Health Department	Buffalo
8	Family Medical Care Associates	Cobleskill
9	Family Medicine	Cortland
10	Greater Hudson Valley	Cortland
11	Gurinder S. Mehar, MD	Ithaca
12	Jones Memorial Hospital	Angelica
13	Julie Gold Midwifery	Brooklyn
14	Kingston Hospital	Kingston
15	Koinona Primary Care	Albany
16	Main Street Medical Group	Malone
17	Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital	Cooperstown
18	Massena Memorial Hospital	Massena
19	Nurse Midwifery Association of Western NY	Buffalo
20	Olean Medical Group	Cuba
21	Oneonta Community Health Center	Oneonta
22	Rochester General	Rochester
23	Schuyler Hospital	Montour Falls
24	September Hill Midwifery	Burdett
25	UHS Wilson Medical Center	Johnson City
26	UHS Women's Health Center	Johnson City
27	Wise Women OB/GYN	Watertown
28	Women and Children Hospital of Buffalo	Buffalo
29	Woodhill Medical Center	Brooklyn