



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: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University

DATE: December 2, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its December 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 Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University seeks to extend Regents permission to operate in New York State in order to place midwifery students from its 50-credit post-master's Advanced Certificate program in health care agencies for supervised clinical experiences. This program received its initial permission to operate in April 2001 and had this permission extended for a 5-year period which ended on

November 30, 2011. At this time, the Institute is also requesting initial permission to operate in New York State for the purpose of providing clinical placements for students enrolled in its 62-credit Master of Science degree programs titled Nurse-Midwifery (open to individuals with a bachelor's degree in nursing who are licensed as registered nurses) and Midwifery (open to individuals who have completed approximately 50 credits of prerequisite course work in the liberal arts and sciences but are not licensed as registered nurses).

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. The Institute's Midwifery programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). The next ACME review is scheduled for June 2015. Philadelphia University has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 1955, with the next review scheduled for the 2015-2016 academic year. 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 December 13, 2011, which authorizes The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University to use clinical agencies in New York for clinical education of midwifery students in its Master of Science and post-master's Advanced Certificate programs.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until December 31, 2016.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATION

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.”

Midwifery education at the Institute began in 1996 with the establishment of the Institute of Midwifery, Women and Health. In April 2001, the Institute was granted approval by the Board of Regents to use clinical facilities in New York for its Advanced Certificate program. The current name, The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University, was adopted in 2005. The programs at the Institute are designed to prepare clinically competent nurse-midwives and midwives who provide family-centered primary health care to women in out-patient and in-patient settings. 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 Blackboard as the distance learning platform and Adobe Connect as the voice and visual distance communication platform, which enables students to meet the programs’ educational objectives without leaving their communities. Students in the degree and certificate programs can complete requirements in six semesters. Students are required to come to the Philadelphia campus twice during their enrollment. The first trip is for one week of clinical skills instruction and practice prior to the start of the out-patient clinical experience, and the second trip to the campus is for one week of clinical skills instruction and practice prior to the start of the in-patient clinical experience.

The current request involves the annual placement of up to 5 midwifery students who are enrolled in the Nurse-Midwifery or Midwifery master’s degree or post-master’s Advanced Certificate programs in New York facilities for 850 clock hours of preceptored experiences over 4 semesters. Historically, the School has not had more than five students a year who have requested placement in New York facilities for completion of their midwifery clinical practicum courses. The School has agreements with 10 facilities for clinical experiences, which it uses on a rotating basis to accommodate students in various geographic areas of the state. Typically the School places only one student at each facility. Clinical placements will be for 4 courses that are part of a 14-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. Midwifery Institute faculty members follow a cohort of students through the clinical portion of their education and interact via telephone conferencing every two to four weeks with each clinical preceptor and student to assess student progress and student-preceptor interaction. Each faculty member has a minimum of a master’s degree and is a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Students take core course work in advanced physical assessment, pharmacology, advanced anatomy and physiology, embryology, genetics, research (master's degree students only), professional issues health policy and interviewing techniques, and complete 38 credits of course work in the area of specialization. Graduates of each program will be eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board.

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. The only affiliation agreements the Institute has with clinical facilities near any of these four schools are two agreements with agencies in Westchester County. The remaining eight agreements are with facilities in the Capital Region, Central New York and Western New York.

Like programs preparing practitioners in other professions, midwifery and 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.

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 midwifery programs. Because of the limited nature of the institution'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 Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.