



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

DATE: March 12, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its March 2012 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. Article 140 of the Education Law restricts the practice of midwifery to licensed persons enrolled in educational programs that the State Education Department has registered.

Background Information

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey seeks to extend Regents permission to operate in New York State in order to place midwifery students in a health care agency for supervised clinical experiences. The program that, in October 2006,

received approval of its initial request for permission to operate was a 36-credit post-master's Advanced Certificate program. This approval expired on November 30, 2011. Since the review in 2006, the Advanced Certificate program has been replaced by a 50-credit offering leading to the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree.

Nurse-midwifery education at the University began in 1972, where for the next 34 years the program was administered as part of the School of Health Related Professions. In 2006, the nurse-midwifery program was transferred to the School of Nursing where the educational mission of the program was seen to be in close correspondence with that of the School of Nursing. The program is designed to prepare the graduate to deliver primary and reproductive care to women across the lifespan within the context of a wellness paradigm, with content dependent on evidence-based rationales for practice. Didactic and clinical courses are divided into 13 credits of core course work, 8 credits of supplemental course work and 29 credits of course work in the specialty areas of midwifery and women's health. Specialty course work requires the completion of 765 clinical contact hours distributed across 5 courses. One of the core courses, advanced health assessment, contains 45 clinical contact hours, which is completed at the University's teaching hospital in Newark. A virtual learning environment for didactic course work is created using the ANGEL Learning Management Suite. The core non-clinical courses are offered in web-based and traditional formats, with students free to choose either format. The supplemental courses are web-based. The didactic portion of clinical specialty courses is offered on-site at the University's Newark campus. Students can complete the program in five semesters of full-time study. Degree requirements must be completed within five years of matriculation into the program.

The current request involves the placement of up to three students a year at Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow. This placement would provide for completion of the 765 clinical contact hours over 5 semesters. The students will be precepted by a nurse-midwife at the participating agency. Clinical experiences will be coordinated and supervised by either the Director of the Nurse-Midwifery program or one of the five other faculty who have instructional responsibilities in the program. Each faculty member is a certified nurse-midwife. All six have a minimum of a master's degree in nursing, four are doctorally prepared, and a fifth is enrolled in a doctoral program. The faculty member who serves as the coordinator will share responsibility for evaluation of the students' clinical performances with the preceptor.

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, Columbia University and New York University, are independent. The other two, the Health Science Center at Brooklyn and Stony Brook, are members of the State University of New York system. Staff have determined that, because of the limited nature of the University's authorization to operate in New York State should authorization be granted for extension of the nurse-midwifery program's permission to operate, there should be no reduction in access to clinical experiences at cooperating facilities for students enrolled in New York institutions' midwifery programs.

The University's Nurse-Midwifery program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). The next ACME review is scheduled for

January 2015. The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey has been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Higher Education since 1979, with the next self-study review scheduled for the 2016-2017 academic year. The program meets 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 March 20, 2012, which authorizes the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's School of Nursing to use one clinical agency in New York for clinical education of nurse-midwifery students in its M.S.N. program.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until March 31, 2017.