



The University of North Carolina

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Constituent Universities
Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School
North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: September 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Licensure of Northeastern University

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is charged under North Carolina General Statute Section 116-15 with responsibility for licensing nonpublic educational institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina. In November 2004, the Board of Governors approved revisions to the document, *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina*. This document provides the guidelines for interpreting the standards, and the rules, regulations, and procedures under which the Board issues licenses to institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina.

Northeastern University has applied for a regular license to offer the following degree programs in Charlotte, NC:

- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.),
- Master of Education (M.Ed.),
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership,
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance,
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Health Informatics,
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Project Management,
- Master of Sports Leadership, and
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Taxation

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if Northeastern University complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On May 26, 2011, a team of examiners visited the Boston, MA, campus. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report which contained suggestions and recommendations. Dr. Prochaska agrees with the team's review. For more details on the degree programs and report, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and

APPENDIX B

Programs of the UNC Board of Governors that a regular license be issued to Northeastern University to offer the above-named degree programs at a facility to be located in uptown Charlotte, subject to annual reports and review at any time. The programs will be reviewed within one calendar year of their initiation in North Carolina to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Northeastern University is a private not-for-profit institution located in Boston, Massachusetts. It has continuously conducted post-secondary degree activity since its founding in 1898. Offering programs at the baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral levels, the university enrolls approximately 20,000 students on its Boston campus.

Northeastern University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the northeast's regional accrediting body.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Northeastern University has applied for licensure to offer the following eight degree programs at a facility to be located in uptown Charlotte:

- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Master of Education (M.Ed.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Health Informatics
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Project Management
- Master of Sports Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Taxation

Five of these proposed degree programs will be offered through a combination of on-site, online, hybrid, and blended instruction. The Master of Business Administration, the Master of Science in Finance, and the Master of Science in Taxation degree programs will be offered exclusively online.

In accordance with the Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina, Dr. Frank Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at UNC General Administration, appointed a team of examiners to visit the institution on May 26, 2011 and evaluate its compliance with the licensure standards.

The team of examiners with expertise in the specific disciplines relating to the application was comprised of:

- Dr. Richard E. Neel (Chair), Dean Emeritus, Belk College of Business, and Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Dr. Stella Anderson, Professor of Management, Walker College of Business Administration, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina
- Dr. Betty Epanchin, Professor and Associate Dean of Teacher Education and School Relationships, and Director of the Teachers Academy, School of Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina

- Dr. Laurel A. Files, Associate Chair and Associate Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Dr. Stephen C. Harper, Progress Energy/Betty Cameron Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship, Cameron School of Business, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina
- Dr. Lee G. Knight, Hylton Professor of Accountancy, School of Business, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- Dr. Mary Anne Nixon, Professor of Project Management, College of Business, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina
- Charles J. Popovich, retired Head Business Librarian and Associate Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Dr. John A. Swope, Associate Dean, College of Education, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina
- Dr. Nathan Tomasini, Director, Center for Sport Leadership, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia
- Dr. Frank Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, *Ex Officio*

The team's task was to review the application and accompanying appendices and to participate in the site visit to determine if the institution demonstrated compliance with licensure standards. Either prior to the visit or during the visit, many additional items of documentation were reviewed by the team including curricula for the proposed degree programs, course syllabi, faculty curriculum vitae, library and electronic resources, instructional resources, budget data, audited financial statements, Northeastern University's website, Northeastern University 2010-2011 *Graduate Student Handbook*, Northeastern University Faculty Senate *Faculty Handbook*, and Northeastern University "The Long-Range Plan: 2010-2015."

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

The Master of Business Administration degree program offers specialized electives in the areas of Finance, Healthcare Management, High Technology Management, Innovation Entrepreneurship, International Management, Marketing, and Operations and Supply Chain. The program requires the completion of 50 semester credit hours.

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

As students focus on written, technological, and presentation skills necessary to effectively communicate in the 21st century, the curriculum promotes commitment to equality, educational quality, and respect for variations in learning in all environments. Three specializations are offered: Higher Education Administration, Learning and Instruction, and Special Education. A total of 45 quarter credit hours are required to complete the program.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership

Responding to an increasingly complex and diverse workforce, the Master of Science in Leadership prepares students to meet these evolving challenges by helping cultivate a personal leadership philosophy and establish leadership competencies. Specializations available include Health Management, Nonprofit Management, Organizational Communication, Project Management, and Sport and Social Change. The program requires the completion of 45 quarter credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance

The M.S. in Finance degree program, designed for working professionals in the finance sector, blends quantitative, business, analytical, and communication skills with curriculum in financial strategy, financial theory, international finance, investment analysis, and financial markets. Students may select electives in investment banking, mergers & acquisitions, portfolio management, and real estate finance. The program is comprised of 30 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Health Informatics

The Master of Science in Health Informatics is designed for health-care professionals with limited experience or knowledge of computing and information technology, or for IT professionals with little knowledge of health-care environments. Students with either background can gain the knowledge and skills to effectively utilize medical information systems. The program requires the completion of 33 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Project Management

The Master of Science in Project Management is designed to provide students the practical skills and theoretical concepts needed to lead complex projects. Featuring real-world case studies, this project management degree presents techniques and tools for successfully and cost effectively managing long- and short-term projects. Two specializations are offered: Leadership, and Organization Communication. Forty-five quarter credit hours are required to complete the program.

Master of Sports Leadership

Developed in collaboration with Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, the Master of Sports Leadership curriculum is designed to provide professional preparation for leadership positions in a variety of sports-related professions. Courses within this program examine the social, management, and business issues that are critical to sports leadership. A total of 45 quarter credit hours are required to complete the program.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Taxation

Northeastern's M.S. in Taxation program is designed for professionals pursuing a career in taxation. The legal and public policy aspects of taxation are examined within a curriculum designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of tax professionals who want to stay current with industry trends and current tax planning techniques. The program is comprised of 30 semester credit hours.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Visit to Review Northeastern University's Proposed Master's Degree Programs in Charlotte, North Carolina* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included fourteen suggestions and twelve recommendations addressing the degree programs reviewed. Suggestions, which are offered as suggested best practices by team members, do not indicate a lack of compliance with the *Rules and Standards*. A suggestion is written for the institution's benefit, and it does not need to be implemented; the recommendations, however, must be implemented by the institution. The recommendations addressed issues of program curricula, course content in selected courses, library resources, faculty credentials, the tuition guaranty bond, and information to be included in the catalog.

The team of examiners concludes its report by stating that it would make its concluding recommendations to the General Administration of The University of North Carolina regarding the licensure of Northeastern University's eight proposed degree programs after it received and reviewed the institution's response to the recommendations contained in the report.

After receiving the team of examiners' report, Northeastern University responded to the recommendations and suggestions. All of the recommendations have been implemented to the satisfaction of the team of examiners.

After reviewing the institution's response, the team of examiners recommends that Northeastern University be licensed to offer the eight degree programs requested.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the following proposed degree programs, to be offered by Northeastern University in Charlotte:

- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Master of Education (M.Ed.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Health Informatics
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Project Management
- Master of Sports Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Taxation

A site visit to the Charlotte location of Northeastern University will be performed within one calendar year of the initiation of these new degree programs, by a team of examiners with expertise in the field, to ascertain the institution's compliance with the *Rules and Standards*, including the recommendations contained in the report.