



# The University of North Carolina

General Administration

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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: October 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Licensure of ECPI 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 for 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.

ECPI University has applied for a regular license to offer the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Registered Nursing degree program in Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh, NC.

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if ECPI University complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On March 27, 2012, the team of examiners visited the ECPI University campus in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Following the visit, the team of examiners issued its report which contained recommendations. For more details on the degree program and report, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs of the UNC Board of Governors that a regular license be issued to ECPI University to offer the above-named degree program in Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh, North Carolina subject to annual reports and review at any time. The program will be reviewed within two calendar years of the 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 ECPI UNIVERSITY

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ECPI University, formerly named ECPI College of Technology, is owned by ECPI Colleges, Inc., a limited liability company formed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1966. It has been continuously offering associate degrees and higher since May, 1990. The university, which is headquartered in Virginia Beach, Virginia, now has 13 campuses in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The North Carolina locations are in Charlotte, Charlotte/Concord, Greensboro, and Raleigh.

The North Carolina campuses of ECPI University are currently licensed to offer three Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree programs, four Associate of Science (A.S.) degree programs, and four Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree programs.

ECPI University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

### THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

ECPI University has applied for licensure to offer the following degree program on-site at its Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh campuses:

- Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Registered Nursing

Pursuant to 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 and evaluate its compliance with the licensure standards.

A team of examiners visited the Virginia Beach, Virginia, campus of ECPI University on March 27, 2012. The Virginia Beach campus was visited because this campus currently offers the A.A.S. in Registered Nursing degree program, and the instructional facilities at the Virginia Beach campus will be replicated at the three proposed North Carolina locations.

The team of examiners with expertise in the specific discipline 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. Ann M. Newman, Associate Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Dr. Laurel A. Files, Special Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for Licensure, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Associate Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy and Administration, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (*Ex Officio*)

The team's task was to review the application and accompanying exhibits 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 the curriculum and all course syllabi for the proposed degree program, the curriculum vita for the Director of the proposed degree program, library and electronic resources, educational facilities, computer resources, laboratory facilities and equipment, budget data, audited financial statements, enrollment data, and the ECPI University *Faculty and Staff Manual*, *Annual Report of Institutional Effectiveness for FY 2010*, and 2012 Catalog.

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the ECPI University – Virginia Beach campus.

### **PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM**

#### Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Registered Nursing

This degree program provides students with current knowledge in nursing concepts, principles, processes, and skills. The curriculum includes nursing, health, acute and chronic health deviations, nutrition, pharmacology, communication, human development, and current technology subject areas. The 75 semester credit hour curriculum is comprised of 19 hours of general education and 56 hours of major subject courses.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

After the site visit, the *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Licensure Visit to the Virginia Beach, Virginia Campus of ECPI University to Review the Proposed Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in Registered Nursing to be Offered at ECPI's Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh Campuses* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included three suggestions and six recommendations. 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 sites for clinical rotations, facilities for the proposed degree program, and faculty credentials.

The team of examiners concludes its report by stating it would make its recommendation to the General Administration of The University of North Carolina regarding the licensure of the proposed new degree program after it receives the response from ECPI University to the recommendations and suggestions contained in the report.

After receiving the team of examiners' report, ECPI 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 ECPI University be licensed to offer the new degree program requested.

## APPENDIX E

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends that ECPI University be granted a regular license to offer the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Registered Nursing degree program at its Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh campuses.

Site visits to the above three locations of ECPI University will be performed within two calendar years of the initiation of the new degree program, 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.