



The University of North Carolina

General Administration

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Constituent Universities
Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
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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
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: March 22, 2013

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 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.

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

- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Energy Systems
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Engineering Management
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Assurance
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Regulatory Affairs
- Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tD.P.T.)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

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 October 1, 2012, the team of examiners visited the Northeastern University campus in Boston, MA. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report which contained

recommendations. For more details on the degree programs 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 Northeastern University to offer the above-named degree programs in Charlotte, NC, subject to annual reports and review at any time. The programs 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 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.

The institution is currently licensed to offer the following eight Masters degree programs at a facility 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

The Charlotte Center of Northeastern University began offering the above eight degree programs in January, 2012. A team of examiners visited the Charlotte Center on January 31, 2013, and found that Northeastern University is in compliance with the fifteen licensure standards in its offering of the above eight programs.

Northeastern University is regionally accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC).

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Northeastern University has applied for licensure to offer the following ten additional graduate degree programs at its Charlotte Center:

- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Energy Systems
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Engineering Management
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Assurance
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Regulatory Affairs
- Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tD.P.T.)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

Eight of these proposed degree programs will be offered through a combination of on-site, online, and hybrid instruction. The Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy and the Master of Science in Regulatory Affairs 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 October 1, 2012 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. Mesut Baran, Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Christina P. Beard, PA-C, MPAS, Program Director, Physician Assistant Program, Methodist College, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- Dr. Gene Dixon, Associate Professor, Department of Engineering, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina
- Dr. Nicholas A. Giannatasio, Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, North Carolina
- Dr. Eric K. Patterson, Associate Professor of Computer Science, Department of Computer Science, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina
- Charles J. Popovich, Retired Head Business Librarian and Associate Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Dr. Richard W. Redman, Ada Sue Hinshaw Collegiate Professor of Nursing, Director, DNP Program, School of Nursing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Dr. Richard L. Segal, PT, FAPTA, Professor and Director, Division of Physical Therapy, Department of Allied Health Sciences, School of Medicine, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Dr. Charles Swanson, Director, Regulatory Affairs and Services Graduate Program, St. Cloud University, Minnetonka, Minnesota
- Dr. Zaphon Wilson, Dean, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Professor of Political Science, St. Augustine's University, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Dr. Frank T. 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 2011-

2012 *Graduate Student Handbook*, Northeastern University Faculty Senate *Faculty Handbook*, Northeastern University “Professional Standards and Business Conduct Policy,” and Northeastern University “The Long-Range Plan: 2010-2015.”

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

As is the case with all UNC doctoral program applications, the proposed D.N.P and tD.P.T programs in Northeastern University’s application for licensure were each reviewed by a set of external reviewers of national stature, both from within and outside North Carolina. The external reviewers’ assessments and comments were considered by the team of examiners prior to the team’s making recommendations on the doctoral programs.

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

The MPA program is aimed at professionals seeking management and leadership careers in the public or nonprofit sectors. The program is directed toward developing the analytical, conceptual, and practical competencies required for successful careers in public administration. The ultimate goal is to prepare students to be effective in a dynamic and increasingly diverse professional environment. The program requires the completion of 42 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science

The MS in Computer Science program prepares students to work at organizations that design, develop, market, or utilize computing systems. Students learn to recognize and solve problems in the use of digital computers in business and engineering and in educational and research environments. The program requires the completion of 32 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice Leadership

This program is specifically designed to prepare future leaders for success in law enforcement, courts, private security, and corrections organizations. It offers academically distinctive graduate courses that emphasize management, communication, and ethics—themes that are designed to enhance each student’s leadership capacity and career prospects. The program shows how today’s law enforcement and security professionals must deliver effective services, remain transparent in their interactions with the public, and respond to changing local, national, and world conditions. The program requires the completion of 45 quarter credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Energy Systems

The Master of Science in Energy Systems degree program integrates the technology side of energy systems development with the financial planning needed to effectively implement them. The goal of the MSES is to provide a distinctive interdisciplinary graduate program for the engineer or technical business major who is pursuing an industrial or public planning based career. The program requires the completion of 35.5 semester credit hours.

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

Engineering management is the art and science of planning, organizing, allocating resources, and directing and controlling activities that have a technological component. Engineering managers possess both an ability to apply engineering principles and a skill in organizing and directing technical projects and people in technical jobs. Approximately two-thirds of all engineers spend a portion of their careers as managers, and this degree program develops and enhances their management skills. The program requires the completion of 32 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Assurance

Students learn how to use methods and tools to make strategic decisions about information security issues (including identity theft and other forms of electronic fraud), computer viruses, hacking attacks, and even cyber warfare. Technical skills are strengthened, while the understanding of the “human factor” in security is increased as students learn how it is used to protect individuals, companies, and other organizations. The program requires the completion of 32 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies

Physician Assistants take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order diagnostic tests/studies, diagnose, develop and implement a treatment plan in consultation with the supervising physician, prescribe medication in all states, advise and educate patients on health promotion and disease management, provide inpatient hospital care for patients, and assist in surgery. The program requires the completion of 103 semester credit hours.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Regulatory Affairs

The program provides the broad perspectives and detailed knowledge needed for a full understanding of regulations and their practical application in the development and commercialization of drugs, biologics, and medical device products. Courses address critical regulatory issues affecting all of the stages and processes required to bring medical products to market in the U.S. and around the world. The program produces graduates who are highly qualified to manage the regulatory process for companies developing new drugs, devices, treatments, and other products at the leading edge of science and medicine. The program requires the completion of 45 quarter credit hours.

Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tD.P.T.)

This program was created specifically for practicing physical therapists who want to advance their careers by acquiring the latest knowledge, skills, and best practices. Core courses address essential topics in physical therapy such as differential diagnosis and medical screening, diagnostic imaging, pharmacology, nutrition, and motor control, as well as techniques for case analysis and statistical research. In the capstone course, each student researches and prepares a comprehensive and publishable case report or other scholarly work on a specific patient’s course of treatment. Specializations are in orthopedics, pediatrics, geriatrics, advanced nutrition, women's health, education, and business management. The program requires the completion of 30 quarter credit hours.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

The DNP program includes advance coursework in leadership, research translation, population health, informatics, and health policy. The program's goal is to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders with a greater breadth of expertise so they can collaborate more effectively with inter-professional partners and provide leadership to enhance the quality and safety of patient care. DNP graduates often assume clinical leadership positions as advanced nurses, as well as leadership positions as faculty, nurse executives, and community leaders. The program requires the completion of 33 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 and Doctoral Degree Programs for Charlotte, North Carolina* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included nine suggestions and fourteen recommendations addressing the ten 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, number of credit hours in selected degree programs, course content in selected courses, library resources, instructional equipment and facilities, faculty credentials, and program staffing requirements.

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 ten proposed degree programs after it received and reviewed the institution's response to the recommendations and suggestions 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 ten 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 at its Charlotte Center:

- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice Leadership
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Energy Systems
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Engineering Management

- Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Assurance
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Regulatory Affairs
- Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tD.P.T.)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

A site visit to the Charlotte location of Northeastern University will be performed within two calendar years 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.