



The University of North Carolina

General Administration
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Technical State
University

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Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

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North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
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North Carolina
at Charlotte

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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
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: May 15, 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 program(s) in Charlotte, NC:

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

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, 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 program(s) 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 program(s) in Charlotte, NC subject to annual reports and review at any time. The program(s) 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 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

- 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.)

The Charlotte Center of Northeastern University began offering the first eight degree programs listed above 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 these eight programs. The latter ten degree programs were approved for licensure by the Board of Governors in April 2013, and will be reviewed within two years to verify the institution's continued compliance with the *Rules and Standards*.

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 degree program at its Charlotte Center:

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

The program will be offered utilizing hybrid (blended) instruction.

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 related to the proposed Doctor of Education degree program 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. Betty Epanchin, Professor Emeritus, School of Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina and Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators
- Dr. John A. Swope, Associate Dean, College of Education, East Carolina University, Greenville, 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, during, or after the visit, many items of documentation were reviewed by the team including curricula for the proposed degree program, course syllabi, faculty curriculum vitae, library and electronic resources, instructional resources, Northeastern University's website, and Northeastern University 2011-2012 *Graduate Student Handbook*.

As is the case with all UNC doctoral program applications, the proposed Doctor of Education program was reviewed by a set of external reviewers of national stature, both from within and outside North Carolina. After the review of the initial Ed.D. program application by the team of examiners and external reviewers, the team of examiners recommended substantial modifications to the program curriculum. Northeastern University elected to revise the entire degree program through participation in the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) who guided Northeastern University through the Ed.D. program redesign. Northeastern University's revised Doctor of Education curriculum incorporates these CPED-developed national standards with regard to content, length and depth of curriculum, and duration of study.

The revised Ed.D. program curriculum was reviewed by a second set of external reviewers (some of whom were new and some of whom participated in the first external review), and these external reviewers' assessments and comments were considered by the team of examiners prior to the team's making recommendations on the doctoral program.

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

This three-year degree program is comprised of a core curriculum of foundation and research courses, followed by a course of study in one of three concentration areas. The foundation courses provide an overview of scholarly thinking, research, and writing on learning, leadership, and change and anticipate many of the skill sets used in the research courses and in each student's own doctoral research. The research course sequence provides the necessary skills for students to become consumers of research; that is, learn to critically evaluate research, and learn how to design and conduct research. Northeastern Ed.D. students have the option to enter one of three concentration areas: Curriculum Teaching, Learning, and Leadership; Organizational Leadership; and Higher Education Administration. The program concludes with a doctoral thesis proposal and defense, and a doctoral thesis defense. The program requires the completion of 69 quarter credit hours.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the *Addendum to 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 in Charlotte, North Carolina* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included two recommendations and no suggestions addressing the proposed revised Doctor of Education program. The recommendations addressed issues of program curricula and content, and information to be provided in the Catalog/materials to North Carolina students.

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 proposed Ed.D. program 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. 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 Doctor of Education degree program requested.

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

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

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