



## APPENDIX J

# The University of North Carolina

General Administration  
Post Office Box 2688, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2688

THOMAS W. ROSS, President

Telephone: (919) 962-1000 • Fax: (919) 843-9695 • E-mail: tomross@northcarolina.edu

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

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: August 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Licensure of South 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.

South University has applied for a regular license to offer the following degree programs in High Point, NC:

- Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Business Administration
- Associate of Science (A.S.) in Criminal Justice
- Associate of Science (A.S.) in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Legal Studies
- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Healthcare Administration
- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Systems and Technology
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if South University complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On March 5, 2013, the team of examiners visited the South University campus in Savannah, Georgia. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report which contained

## APPENDIX J

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 South University to offer the above-named degree programs in High Point, 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 SOUTH UNIVERSITY – HIGH POINT CAMPUS**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

South University is a private for-profit institution located in Savannah, Georgia. South University traces its history to 1899 when Dr. John Draughon established Draughon's Practical Business College in Savannah, which eventually became South College and then South University. In 2003, South University became a part of Education Management Corporation (EDMC) which also operates the Art Institutes and other education providers.

In April 2011 the UNC Board of Governors issued a regular license to South University to offer the following eleven degree programs in High Point:

- Associate of Science (A.S.) in Paralegal Studies
- Associate of Science (A.S.) in Physical Therapist Assisting
- Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Health Science
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Healthcare Management
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion Program
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Psychology
- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Master of Arts (M.A.) in Professional Counseling

The South University – High Point campus began offering coursework in January, 2013 in a new building constructed for this purpose. Dr. Frank Prochaska performed a site visit to the facility on July 10, 2013, and met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of South University – High Point. (As stipulated when the above eleven degree programs were originally approved for licensure, a full site visit by a team of examiners with expertise in the discipline areas will be performed by January, 2015.)

South University, which is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), currently operates eleven campuses located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

### **THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT**

South University has applied for licensure to offer the following additional degree programs at the South University location in High Point, North Carolina:

- Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Business Administration
- Associate of Science (A.S.) in Criminal Justice
- Associate of Science (A.S.) in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Information Technology

- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Legal Studies
- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Healthcare Administration
- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Systems and Technology
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership

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 Savannah, Georgia, campus of South University on March 5, 2013. The Savannah campus was visited because this campus offers all of the degree programs for which licensure is being requested for the High Point campus.

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. 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. Nicholas A. Giannatasio, Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, 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. 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. Matthew Valle, Professor of Management, The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, Elon University, Elon, North Carolina
- Dr. Zaphon R. Wilson, Dean, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Professor of Political Science, Saint 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 fifty-one 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 resources (both print and electronic), instructional resources, computer resources, educational facilities, audited financial statements, South University 2012-2013 Academic Catalog, South University 2012-2013 Academic Catalog Addendum, South University “Strategic Plan: 2012-2016,” South University “Integrated Institutional Effectiveness Process,” South University “Integrated Institutional Effectiveness Plan,” and the South University Faculty Supplement to the South University *Employee Handbook*.

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

## **PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS**

### Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Business Administration

This 92 quarter credit hour program is designed to offer students broad exposure to the responsibilities and requirements of managing a business. The student will have an opportunity to gain an understanding of management concepts that are needed for an entry-level management career. Students are exposed to the principles of accounting, finance, management, economics, and consumer behavior.

### Associate of Science (A.S.) in Criminal Justice

The 92 quarter credit hour program is designed to provide students with a broad-based education and a foundation of knowledge of crime and society’s response to it. Courses in the program include an introduction to the organization and functions of law enforcement, courts and corrections, as well as the basic systems and processes of emergency and disaster management.

### Associate of Science (A.S.) in Information Technology

This 92 quarter credit hour program is designed to prepare students with entry-level knowledge and skills needed to understand the theoretical and applied uses of information technology in various business applications. The technical skills covered in the ASIT curriculum beyond the foundational courses include basic web design, introductory database design, network architecture and protocols, and computer programming. This curriculum is designed to help students when they enter an entry-level position where computing technology is used and applied.

### Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Information Technology

The 180 quarter credit hour degree program focuses on preparing students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the theoretical and applied uses of information technology in various business settings. This program is designed to provide a foundation for understanding the function and process of computer programming, database design, network design, information security, and software engineering. Case studies and hands-on projects are utilized to help students gain the communication skills, critical thinking skills, and technical competencies required in the current technology-oriented workplace.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Legal Studies

The 180 quarter credit hour program is designed to provide students with a broad academic background in general education, fundamental theoretical legal concepts, and practical applications. This program is designed for the student who has an interest in an entry level position in the legal field. The graduate will be prepared for challenging assignments, including investigating cases, researching the law, and preparing documents for litigation or business transactions, while working under the supervision of a licensed attorney.

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

This 48 quarter credit hour program is designed to prepare students for a leadership role in the healthcare delivery system. The program is founded on the philosophy that healthcare leaders require strong business competencies and management skills to be successful. The curriculum is designed to prepare students with a sound foundation in business analysis and decision-making, followed by a specialization in healthcare administration.

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

The 48 quarter credit hour program at South University is designed to address the needs of students for applied coursework in areas of critical importance to local, state, and national governmental and non-profit organizations. The program is organized around core, specialization, elective, and capstone courses that cover a broad range of governmental and non-profit topics to help develop each student's knowledge, skills, and abilities. This degree program integrates content from other disciplines to provide a combination of general and specialized knowledge in a multi-disciplinary approach. Specializations such as Criminal Justice, Information Technology, Non-Profit Management, Public Health, and Public Policy allow for in-depth exploration within focused administrative areas.

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

This 48 quarter credit hour program is designed for individuals employed in the criminal justice system, as well as those in other careers, both public and private, who wish to acquire further education in criminal justice. Prerequisites are limited so that qualified students with bachelor's degrees in related fields such as criminology, psychology, business, public administration, anthropology, political science, sociology, or related social sciences may enroll along with students who have undergraduate degrees in criminal justice.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Information Systems and Technology

Graduates of the Master of Science in Information Systems and Technology degree program will be prepared for a career in, or advancement within, a range of positions that manage information and technology in the digital organization. This 48 quarter credit hour program is designed for both professionals in the field and continuing students with an undergraduate degree in a computer or information systems field. For those with other academic or professional training, some existing knowledge of computer information systems is recommended. This program offers students knowledge of both the business and technical side of information systems and technology, and specializes in designing, developing, deploying, and guiding information systems solutions.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Leadership

This 12 course (48 quarter credit hour) program is designed for experienced professionals seeking to advance in their careers and for individuals with limited professional experience seeking to develop skills that will prepare them to successfully manage and lead individuals, teams, departments and organizations.

**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 Review South University's Proposed Degree Programs in High Point, North Carolina* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included ten suggestions and eight recommendations addressing the ten proposed degree programs. 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 library staffing, faculty credentials, the tuition guaranty bond, and information to be included in the next edition of the Catalog.

The team of examiners concludes its report by stating it would make its recommendations to the General Administration of The University of North Carolina regarding licensure of the ten additional degree programs after it receives the response from South University to the recommendations and suggestions contained in the report.

After receiving the team of examiners' report, South 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 South University be licensed to offer the additional three Associate's, two Bachelor's, and five Master's degree programs requested.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the ten proposed degree programs listed above, to be offered by South University at its location in High Point, North Carolina.

A site visit to South University – High Point 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 South University's compliance with the *Rules and Standards*, including the recommendations contained in the report.