



The University of North Carolina

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

ERSKINE B. BOWLES, *President*

Telephone: (919) 962-1000 FAX: (919) 843-9695

E-mail: ebowles@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
School of the Arts

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

Western Carolina
University


Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School
North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Employer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Erskine Bowles 

DATE: May 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Licensure of South College-Asheville to offer degree programs in Asheville, NC

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is charged under North Carolina General Statute Section 116-15 with the 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 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 College-Asheville applied for licensure to offer the following degree program in Asheville, North Carolina: Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Nursing.

Dr. Harry Williams, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if South College-Asheville complied with the licensure standards outlined in *Rules and Standards*. On April 22, 2008, the team of examiners visited South College-Asheville. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report with suggestions and recommendations, and a final recommendation to grant licensure to the proposed degree program. Dr. Williams agrees with the team's review and recommendations. For more details on the recommendations and the responses for the proposed degree program by South College-Asheville, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Program of the UNC Board of Governors that the regular license be issued to South College-Asheville to offer the previously mentioned proposed degree programs, subject to annual reports and review at any time. After one year has elapsed, South College-Asheville will be reviewed, to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

Summary of Visit of Team of Examiners for South College, Asheville, NC

Background Information

South College-Asheville was founded in 1905 as Cecils Business College. On November 1, 1998, South College of North Carolina, Inc. purchased Cecils College from Executive Schools, Inc. Subsequently, in February 2002, Cecils College was renamed South College-Asheville. (South College in Knoxville, Tennessee is under the same ownership as South College-Asheville.)

South College-Asheville is a private, co-educational, nonsectarian academic institution that offers various academic programs at the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate levels. The Board of Governors initially approved licensure for South College-Asheville to offer degrees in 1975. Currently, South College-Asheville is authorized to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies and in Radiological Sciences as well as the Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Medical Assisting, Network Technology, Paralegal Studies, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Radiologic Technology.

South College-Asheville is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The Medical Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs on recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for Medical Assistant Education.

The Application and Site Visit

South College-Asheville submitted an application and supporting documentation to UNC General Administration for a proposed Associate of Applied Science degree program in Nursing. Accordingly, a team of examiners with expertise in the specific disciplines relating to the application was assembled by Dr. Harry Williams. The team included 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, College of Health and Human Services, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Dr. Harry L. Williams, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, *Ex Officio*.

The site visit to South College-Asheville was conducted on April 22, 2008 to ascertain the institution's compliance, with the fifteen standards contained in The University of North Carolina Board of Governors *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina* (revised November 2004) (referred to in the rest of this summary as the *Rules and Standards*).

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators. These meetings included: John T. South, Jr., Chairman of the Board, South College of North Carolina, Inc.; Robert A. Davis, Executive Director; Jason Fair, Dean of Academic Affairs; Christy Gee, Chair of the Nursing Program; and Amy Boggess, Head Librarian.

Degree Program

South College-Asheville is applying for licensure to offer the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Nursing. The purpose of the proposed program is “to prepare nurses, through classroom and clinical education, with the necessary skills to function at the entry level of practice for registered nursing.” South College-Asheville plans to accept one cohort numbering twenty Nursing students each year. Students in the cohorts will be taking courses in the Nursing major curriculum, including clinical experiences.

South College-Asheville envisions by the second year of the program having forty students enrolled in the two Nursing cohorts and an additional forty pursuing core prerequisite courses, for a total of eighty students enrolled in the Nursing program at any one time during the course of the year. Once additional space has been completed to accommodate students taking prerequisite courses, the College projects that this total of eighty will increase and will fluctuate with the number of qualified applicants to the Nursing program during any particular year.

The curriculum for South College-Asheville’s proposed degree program is designed to prepare individuals with the skills and knowledge to provide nursing care to clients, families and groups of clients throughout the life span in a variety of settings. Courses include content related to the nurse’s role as provider of nursing care, manager of care and as a member of the discipline of nursing. Graduates of this program will be eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN), which is required to practice as a Registered Nurse.

The students will have a 120-hour preceptorship experience. This experience will be designed and implemented according to objectives designed by the Nursing instructor and the student. The preceptor and the student may modify these objectives in relation to the specific clinical site. However, the instructor must approve any modifications to assure correlation with course objectives. Before graduation, all students are required to complete an exit exam assessing both their overall mastery of skills imparted through general studies courses as well as the competency achieved in their major field of study.

South College-Asheville states that it intends to seek National League of Nursing (NLN) accreditation. The attainment of NLN accreditation would distinguish the College’s A.A.S. degree program in Nursing from the programs of other institutions which do not have such accreditation, and it would benefit the students and graduates of this program. The proposed A.A.S. degree program in Nursing requires 121 quarter credit hours and 36 quarter credit hours of general education. It is designed to be completed in seven quarters by a full-time student. The academic year consists of four quarters, each ten weeks in duration.

Recommendations

Following the visit, the team submitted to General Administration a *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Licensure Visit To Review South College-Asheville’s Proposed Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in Nursing*. The preliminary report of the team’s findings was forwarded to South

College-Asheville for correction of factual errors or significant omissions, and for review of the team's eleven recommendations and two suggestions.

The recommendations are as follows:

- That the institution includes in the Catalog and in other relevant documents the sequence in which courses in the proposed degree program will be offered, as well as information on which courses will be taken in each term and in each year of the program.
- Provide to UNC GA a list of the hospital and agencies with which students in the proposed degree program will do their clinical rotations, together with a statement about the status of the College's affiliation agreements with these hospitals and agencies.
- Include in the syllabus for NURS 255 Professional Issues the following two important resources: The Website nursingworld.org and the American Nursing Association's (ANA) Foundation of Nursing Package: *Code of Ethics with Interpretative Statements; Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practices; and Nursing's Social Policy Statement.*
- Include in the syllabus for NURS 255 Professional Issues, in the article review section, as well as in research article assignments, a statement that nursing journal articles are required.
- Include in the syllabus for NURS 115 Fundamentals of Nursing, under the third of the theory objectives, a statement to the effect that a student, as a member of the discipline of nursing, will be able to engage in evidence-based practice (practice based on research).
- Ensure that students in the proposed degree program have access, either in its library or through database subscriptions, to the following journals: *Applied Nursing Research, MEDSURG Journal, American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing, Journal of Community Health Nursing, and Journal of the Psychiatric Nurses Association.*
- Utilize faculty to teach in the proposed degree program that hold at least the Master of Science in Nursing degree.
- Employ faculty to teach the general education courses in the proposed degree program that hold the master's degree or the doctoral degree in the field of specialization in which they are teaching (or at least a master's degree with a minimum of 18 graduate semester credit hours in the field of specialization in which they are teaching).
- Increase the tuition guaranty bond to two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars.
- Make the tuition guaranty bond for its degree programs payable to, or in favor of, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina.
- Provide to UNC GA a statement by an independent certified public account specifying for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2007 the principal amount of the tuition guaranty bond.

South College-Asheville responded to the *Preliminary Report* on May 16, 2008, including the team's eleven recommendations and two suggestions. On May 20, 2008, the team of examiners informed Dr. Williams that South College-Asheville had responded satisfactorily to all of the recommendations, and recommended licensure for their proposed degree program.

The team stated that if licensure is granted, a further recommendation is that a team of examiners visit South College-Asheville one year from the date of licensure to review the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree program for compliance with all of the recommendations

contained in their report, as well as for overall compliance with the fifteen licensure standards contained in the *Rules and Standards*.

Dr. Harry Williams agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree program, as indicated above.