



The University of North Carolina

General Administration
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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: January 16, 2013

SUBJECT: Licensure of Middlebury College

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.

Middlebury College has applied for a regular license to offer the Master of Arts (M.A.) in English and Master of Letters (M.Litt.) in English degree programs in Asheville, NC.

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if Middlebury College complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On July 13, 2012, the team of examiners visited the Middlebury College site in Asheville, NC. Following the 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 Middlebury College to offer the above-named degree programs in Asheville, NC subject to annual reports and review at any time. The programs will be reviewed within two calendar years to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Middlebury College is a private non-profit institution located in Middlebury, Vermont. It has continuously conducted post-secondary degree activity since its founding in 1800.

The College's Bread Loaf School of English, established in 1920, offers the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) and the Master of Letters degree (M.Litt.) in summer programs at four locations: Middlebury, Vermont; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Asheville, North Carolina; and the University of Oxford, England. Courses offered at each site draw upon the literature and culture of the region. Students enrolled in the degree programs often rotate among the four sites as they progress through their program in successive summers.

Middlebury College is regionally accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Middlebury College has applied for licensure to offer the following two degree programs on-site during the summer on the campus of the University of North Carolina Asheville:

- Master of Arts (M.A.) in English
- Master of Letters (M.Litt) in English

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 Asheville site on July 13, 2012 and evaluate Middlebury College's 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
- Heidi Buchanan, Head of Research & Instruction Services, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina
- Dr. Marc Dudley, Professor of English, Department of English, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Dr. Lewis Walker, Professor of English, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina
- Dr. Bil Stahl, Special Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, and Retired Associate Provost

for Information Technology and Library Services, and Professor Emeritus, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, 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, educational facilities, computer resources, audited financial statements, The Middlebury College 2011-2012 General Catalog, and The Middlebury College Bread Loaf School of English 2012 Summer Programs Catalog.

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

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Arts (M.A.) in English

The objective of the Master of Arts degree program is to give students a broad familiarity with the field of British, American, and world literature. To earn the M.A. degree, students must complete ten three-credit graduate-level courses with a grade of B- or better in each. Most students enroll in two courses per summer and complete the degree program in five summers. The curriculum is divided into six groups: (I) Writing and the Teaching of Writing; (II) British Literature through the Seventeenth Century; (III) British Literature since the Seventeenth Century; (IV) American Literature; (V) World Literature; and (VI) Theatre Arts. Degree candidates are required to take two courses from Group II, two from Group III, one from Group IV, and one from Group V.

Master of Letters (M.Litt.) in English

The Master of Letters degree program is designed to enable students to achieve mastery of a specialization within the fields of literature, pedagogy, and/or the creative arts. To be eligible for admission, candidates must hold an M.A. degree in English. To earn the M.Litt. degree, students must complete ten three-credit graduate-level courses, receiving a grade of B- or better in each. Most students enroll in two courses per summer and complete the degree program in five summers. M.Litt. candidates design their own fields of specialization, in consultation with Bread Loaf's Associate Director. Seven of the ten required courses must be in this field. In the final summer, degree candidates must pass a comprehensive examination or produce a final project representing the course work done in the field.

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 Middlebury College's Master's Degree Programs at its Asheville Campus* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included six suggestions and three recommendations addressing the 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 additional documentation required by the *Rules and Standards*.

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 Middlebury College's two degree programs after it received and reviewed the institution's response to the recommendations contained in the report.

Middlebury College responded to the report, and 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 Middlebury College be licensed to offer the two degree programs requested.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the following two degree programs, to be offered by Middlebury College in Asheville:

- Master of Arts (M.A.) in English
- Master of Letters (M.Litt.) in English

A site visit to the Asheville location of Middlebury College will be performed within two calendar years, 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.