Staff Report and Recommendation
ECPI University

Background

ECPI University (OPEID 01019800), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include an Associate of Science in Information Technology, Software Development, and Coding (AS ITSDC); a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Software Development, and Coding (BS ITSDC); an Associate of Science in Information and Cyber Security Operations (AS ICSO), and a Bachelor of Science in Information and Cyber Security Operations (BS ICSO). Currently, ECPI is licensed to offer a variety of science and technology degree programs at three locations in North Carolina. The BS ICSO and the AS ICSO's focus on cybersecurity, networking, and operating systems align with industry standards and marketing demands for cybersecurity professionals. The AS ITSDC and BS ITSDC programs are tailored toward equipping students with essential skills in software development and coding, and offer specializations like data analytics, IT project management, and user experience and web/mobile development. Staff conducted a desk review and made findings concerning the curriculum, faculty qualifications, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes[i]	Graduated	54%		
	Transferred out	20%		
	Withdrew	26%		
Employment placement rate		Does not report on a campuswide basis.		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)		**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
		N/A	3.0	3.0
Three-year cohort default rate		**Class of 2020**	**Class of 2019**	**Class of 2018**
		0%	3.4%	11.4%

Recommendation

Issue ECPI University a license to offer the Associate of Science in Information Technology, Software Development, and Coding; Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Software Development, and Coding; Associate of Science in Information and Cyber Security Operations, and the Bachelor of Science in Information and Cyber Security Operations.

---

[i] Unless otherwise noted, this is data reported by the institution to the U.S. Department of Education and includes both full- and part-time students and first-time and transfer-in students.

Background

Miller-Motte College – Jacksonville (OPEID 02306821) ("MMC"), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Construction and Trades Management. This proposed program is similar to programs successfully offered at other MMC campuses across the country and was approved by the Board in 2023 at Miller-Motte College – Fayetteville. The curriculum and instructors will meet standards set by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), and students will have the opportunity to earn NCCER credentials. Staff performed a review of this program and made findings to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes[i]	Graduated	48%		
	Transferred out	23%		
	Withdrew	29%		
Employment placement rate		Does not report on a campuswide basis.		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)		**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
		1.2	1.7	1.6
Three-year cohort default rate		**Class of 2020**	**Class of 2019**	**Class of 2018**
		0%	3.5%	18.9%

Recommendation

Issue Miller-Motte College – Jacksonville a license to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Construction and Trades Management.

---

[i] Unless otherwise noted, this is data reported by the institution to the U.S. Department of Education and includes both full- and part-time students and first-time and transfer-in students.

Staff Report and Recommendation
South College – Asheville

Background

South College – Asheville (OPEID 00493805), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) and an Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy (AS-RT). Currently, South College is licensed to offer a variety of health care programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. The proposed ABSN curriculum remains consistent with the approved BSN program, but for individuals with completed bachelor's or graduate degrees, it waives the seven-year transfer time limit for science courses, allowing students to commence major courses from one to two quarters sooner. The intent of the AS-RT is to fill a growing need for respiratory therapists. Upon completion of the program, students will be registry-eligible respiratory therapists and will take the National Board for Respiratory Care Examinations. Staff conducted a site visit in March 2024 and made findings concerning the curriculum, expansion of laboratory and clinical resources, faculty qualifications, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes	Graduated	38%		
	Transferred out	15%		
	Withdrew	47%		
Employment placement rate		90%		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)		**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
		N/A	2.1	1.6
Three-year cohort default rate		**Class of 2020**	**Class of 2019**	**Class of 2018**
		0%	2.2%	12.1%

Recommendation

Issue South College – Asheville a license to offer the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy.

Staff Report and Recommendation
Walden University

Background

Walden University (OPEID 02504200), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Studies (BS ECS and MS ECS), a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), and a Post-Masters Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PM-Cert). Currently, Walden is licensed to offer a variety of online degree programs requiring field experiences in North Carolina. BS ECS and MS ECS programs are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs, and it is the only recognized national accreditor for educator preparation. The BSN Program is a completion program for registered nurses who have a diploma or associate degree in nursing and is structured to support and equip RNs with specialized skills and current knowledge they can apply on the job immediately. The PM-Cert prepares nurses with an MSN or a nurse practitioner MSN degree with the specialized information, knowledge, and skills to be eligible to take the national NP certification examination appropriate to the specialty and to obtain NP licensure at the state level. Staff conducted a desk review and made findings concerning the curriculum, supervision of field experiences, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes[i]	Graduated	29%		
	Transferred out	51%		
	Withdrew	19%		
Employment placement rate		Does not report on a campuswide basis.		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)		**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
		2.2	1.8	1.7
Three-year cohort default rate		**Class of 2020**	**Class of 2019**	**Class of 2018**
		0%	1.1%	4.7%

Recommendation

Issue Walden University a license to offer the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Early Childhood Studies, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Post-Masters Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

---

[i] Unless otherwise noted, this is data reported by the institution to the U.S. Department of Education and includes both full- and part-time students and first-time and transfer-in students.

Staff Report and Recommendation for Interim Permit

Saint Thomas University, a nonprofit institution incorporated in Wyoming, seeks an interim permit to operate an administrative campus in North Carolina pursuant to Section 400.4.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Policy on Standards for Licensure of Nonpublic Degree Granting Postsecondary Activity*, and Section 400.4.1.3[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Regulation on Procedures for Licensure*. An interim permit to operate an administrative campus would allow the institution to offer advising, enrollment, recruiting, and similar postsecondary degree activity, but not instruction, from a physical location in North Carolina for two years, at which time the Board may issue the institution a regular license. After review of the institution's application, staff recommends approval.