

Staff Report and Recommendation for
South University

Background

South University in High Point, North Carolina (OPEID 01303923), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). The DNP is designed to prepare nurses for advanced clinical practice and leadership roles in health care and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. South University is accredited by SACSCOC and was reaffirmed in 2024. Staff conducted a program review and made findings concerning the curriculum, supervision of clinical placement sites, and faculty qualifications, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	27%		
	Transferred out	24%		
	Withdrew	48%		
Employment Placement Rate		N/A		
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2023	2021	2020	
	0.8	0.4	-0.2	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	
	0%	0%	3.1%	

Recommendation

Issue South University a license to offer the DNP.

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

The Chicago School

Background

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (The Chicago School) (OPEID 02155307), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Ph.D. Counselor Education & Supervision (Ph.D. CES). The Ph.D. CES program is not a professional licensure program but is designed to prepare students as educators and leaders in the field of psychology. The program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Program applicants must be licensed professional counselors or license-eligible with a master's degree from a CACREP accredited institution. The Chicago School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission.

The Chicago School's last on-site compliance review was conducted by staff in 2019, with the next review scheduled to take place in 2025. Staff conducted a desk review of the curriculum, faculty qualifications, field experience requirements, and other institutional policies, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	The institution does not offer undergraduate programs, so it does not report eight-year outcomes to the Department of Education. An institution-wide graduation rate of 64.86% was reported in its most recent annual report to the Board.		
Employment placement rate	Does not report on a campuswide basis		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2023	2022	2021
	3.0	3.0	3.0
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019
	0%	0%	0.6%

Recommendation

Issue The Chicago School a license to offer the Ph.D. Counselor Education & Supervision.

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
The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences**

Background

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) (OPEID 03171300), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks to offer a Post-Graduate Nursing Certificate-Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and RN-MSN. USAHS is headquartered in San Marcos, California, with campuses in St. Augustine, Florida; Miami, Florida; Austin, Texas; and Dallas, Texas. USAHS is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and offers its programs through different modalities, including via distance education, “flex” or hybrid, and campus-based to residents of most states. The institution is pursuing licensure for programs requiring a field experience component to residents of North Carolina. Staff and a review team performed an on-site review in July 2023 and made findings regarding the curriculum, clinical experiences, faculty qualifications, institutional effectiveness and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric					
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated		The institution does not offer undergraduate programs, so it does not report eight-year outcomes to the Department of Education. The institution reported graduation rates of between 89% and 98% for its currently licensed programs in its most recent annual report to the Board.		
	Transferred out				
	Withdrew				
Employment Placement Rate			77.54%		
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)			2022	2021	2020
			0.2	0.2	-1.0
Three-year cohort default rate			Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019
			0%	0%	0.1%

Recommendation

Issue The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences a license to offer the Post-Graduate Nursing Certificate-FNP, DNP, MSN, and RN-MSN.

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
The University of Southern California

Background

The University of Southern California (USC) (OPEID 00132800), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Master of Social Work Advanced Standing (MSWAS). USC is currently licensed to offer a 60-credit MSW program that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The proposed MSWAS program is a 24-credit hour program designed for students who have earned a BSW from a CSWE-accredited program. The institution is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission, with its most recent reaffirmation in 2021. USC has fewer than 100 students enrolled in licensed degree programs in North Carolina, as last reported in November 2024.

USC's last six-year on-site compliance review was conducted by staff in 2019, with the next review scheduled to take place in 2025. Staff conducted a desk review of the curriculum, faculty qualifications, field experience requirements, and other institutional policies, with no significant findings to which the institution needed to respond.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	93%		
	Transferred out	4%		
	Withdrew	2%		
Employment placement rate		66% within six months of graduation		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2021	2020	2019	
	3.0	2.7	2.5	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	Class of 2018	
	0%	0.5%	1.3%	

Recommendation

Issue The University of Southern California a license to offer a Master of Social Work Advanced Standing.

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

Ultimate Medical Academy

Background

Ultimate Medical Academy (UMA) (OPEID 03549300), a new applicant for licensure located in Tampa, Florida, seeks licensure to offer an Associate of Science in Healthcare Accounting (“ASHA”), Associate of Science in Health Sciences-Pharmacy Technician, Associate of Science in Health Sciences-Medical Administrative Assistant, Associate of Science in Healthcare Management, Associate of Science in Medical Billing and Coding, Associate of Science in Health Sciences-Medical Office and Billing Specialist, Associate of Science in Health and Human Services, and an Associate of Science in Health Information Management. UMA is seeking to comply with the Board’s 2021 policy update requiring approval of 100 percent online degree activity. UMA is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools through February 2027.

Staff and external reviewers conducted an on-ground and virtual site visit on February 9, 2024, and made findings regarding program planning and evaluation, student outcomes, the institution’s finances, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	61%		
	Transferred out	8%		
	Withdrew	31%		
Employment placement rate		Does not report on a campus-wide basis		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱ	2021	2020	2019	
	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	Class of 2018	
	0%	3%	12.1%	

Recommendation

Issue Ultimate Medical Academy a license to offer Associate of Science degrees in Healthcare Accounting, Health Sciences-Pharmacy Technician, Health Sciences-Medical Administrative Assistant, Healthcare Management, Medical Billing and Coding, Health Sciences-Medical Office and Billing Specialist, Health and Human Services, and Health Information 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.

ⁱⁱ UMA’s low composite score resulted from a 2015 transaction wherein Clinical and Patient Educators Association, through its subsidiary UMA Education, Inc. (UMAE), purchased certain assets from Ultimate Medical Academy, LLC, including those assets necessary to operate UMA (the transaction). In this transaction, UMAE acquired valuable intangible assets such as trademarks and licenses, which are the primary assets of a predominantly online school

like UMA. As a result of the transaction, UMA's balance sheet reflects a high amount of intangible assets. In the calculation for the institution's composite score, the U.S. Department of Education assigns no value to intangible assets, which in turn negatively impacts two of the three ratios that make up 80 percent of the school's composite score. To exemplify how intangible assets impact the composite score, UMA indicated that the institution would have a strong score of ~3.0 as of the end of FY 2023 if intangible assets were included in the calculation. Additionally, UMA has strong debt service coverage and liquidity ratios, and staff do not believe that the institution's composite score adversely affects UMA's long-term financial stability. However, the institution has made increasing its composite score a strategic initiative, and staff will monitor the institution's progress.

Staff Report and Recommendation for Limited License

Arizona Christian University ("ACU") (OPEID 00711300), a private, nonprofit institution in Glendale, Arizona, seeks a limited license through August 24, 2025, for one student to complete a student teaching field experience for a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. ACU withdrew from the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) in September 2024 due to its financial composite score and seeks this license for the student while the institution pursues renewal with SARA. After reviewing the institution's application, staff recommends approval.

Smith Chason College (OPEID 03639300), a private, for-profit institution in Los Angeles, California, seeks a limited license through June 22, 2025, for one student to complete an externship experience for an Associate of Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) since the student was relocated to Jacksonville, North Carolina, for military service. After reviewing the institution's application, staff recommends approval.

Community Care College (OPEID 03367400), a private, not-for-profit institution in Tulsa, Oklahoma, seeks a limited license through January 31, 2025, for one student to complete an Associate of Science in Medical Billing and Coding program since the student relocated to North Carolina with 15 credit hours remaining in their program. After reviewing the institution's application, staff recommends approval.