

APPENDIX K

Staff Report and Recommendation for DeVry University

Background

DeVry University (OPEID 01072700), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Bachelor of Science in Justice Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology. Currently, DeVry has nearly 1,500 students enrolled in 30 licensed degree programs in the areas of business, science, and technology and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, with its most recent comprehensive evaluation in 2021.

Staff conducted a virtual site visit, hosted from DeVry's main campus in Lisle, Illinois, in December 2023. Staff and a team of subject matter experts met with senior administrators, including the president and CEO, the provost, and chief enrollment, financial, and legal officers, as well as college deans, the university librarian, online learning coordinators, students, and student services directors. The team made findings concerning the curriculum, faculty responsibilities, and professional licensure requirements among other findings, to which the institution responded. Staff also reviewed the status of the U.S. Department of Education's administrative actions related to borrower defense claims from students, being defended by DeVry's former parent company, Adtalem Global Education, as well as new accountability principles put in place under the ownership of Cogswell Education, LLC.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	42%	
	Transferred out	32%	
	Withdrew	25%	
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
	2.3	2.1	1.9
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019
	0%	1%	2.3%

Recommendation

Issue DeVry University a license to offer the BS in Justice Administration and BS in Engineering Technology.

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 Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte

Background

Johnson & Wales University – Charlotte (OPEID 000340410) (“Johnson & Wales”), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a career-focused Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management degree program (BSHM). Johnson & Wales is accredited by the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE). The BSHM is a 90-credit, three-year bachelor’s program, allowing students to complete the degree more quickly and at a lower cost. The curriculum includes 42 university core (general education) credits, 27 major credits, 12 major electives, and nine credits in related and professional studies, as well as 600 noncredit hours of experiential learning. The program was approved by NECHE in September 2024, allowing Johnson & Wales to launch reduced-credit baccalaureate programs.

Staff most recently conducted a site visit in August 2023. During the BSHM program review the team made findings concerning field experiences, faculty, curriculum, program evaluation, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	56%		
	Transferred Out	22%		
	Withdrew	21%		
Employment Placement Rate		95.4%		
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2023	2022	2021	
	3.0	2.2	2.9	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	
	0.0	0.0	1.5	

Recommendation

Issue Johnson & Wales University – Charlotte a license to offer the career-focused Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management degree program.

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
South College – Asheville**

Background

South College – Asheville (OPEID 00493805), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing-LPN to BSN track (LPN-BSN). Currently, South College is licensed to offer multiple associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing. The proposed LPN-BSN degree program provides an additional pathway for nursing degree completion and was approved by the Board of Nursing in 2025. The proposed curriculum remains consistent in quality and content of the approved BSN programs and prepares licensed practical nurses to earn a BSN and qualify for NCLEX-RN examination. Staff conducted a site visit in March 2024 and made findings concerning the curriculum, laboratory and clinical resources, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	40%		
	Transferred out	34%		
	Withdrew	26%		
Employment placement rate		94%		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2023	2022	2019	
	2.1	2.3	2.1	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	
	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	

Recommendation

Issue South College – Asheville a license to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing-LPN to BSN track.

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 Universal Technical Institute

Background

Universal Technical Institute (OPEID 00822104) (“UTI”), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include associate degrees in Automotive & EV Technology + 1 Industry Emphasis, Automotive & EV Technology + 2 Industry Emphases, and Automotive & EV Technology. UTI is a private, for-profit technical/vocational institution located in Mooresville, North Carolina, and accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. The institution has partnerships with major automobile manufacturers and with NASCAR to provide training resulting in industry certifications. The proposed programs focus on the unique maintenance and repair needs of electric vehicles and will prepare students to maintain, diagnose, repair, and test high-voltage vehicles and their complementary components, while adhering to critical safety standards. Staff most recently conducted a site visit in 2024. The review team made findings concerning the faculty, curriculum, and facilities, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	62%	
	Transferred Out	37%	
	Withdrew	1%	
Employment Placement Rate		80%	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2022	2021	2019
	2.7	2.3	1.8
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2019	Class of 2018
	0.0	0.0	3.1

Recommendation

Issue Universal Technical Institute a license to offer associate degrees in Automotive & EV Technology + 1 Industry Emphasis, Automotive & EV Technology + 2 Industry Emphases, and Automotive & EV Technology.

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 South Carolina**

Background

The University of South Carolina (OPEID 00344800) (“South Carolina”), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Master of Sport and Entertainment Management (MSEM). South Carolina is licensed to offer a professional Master of Business Administration program and graduate certificates in business analytics, cybersecurity, and strategic innovation through the Darla Moore School of Business. The MSEM program, offered through the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management, will be delivered in hybrid format, with 25 percent of the program being offered at the Charlotte location that is already approved by the Board and in use by the Darla Moore School of Business. The projected enrollment for year one is seven part-time students. Staff most recently conducted a site visit in August 2022, and a review team made findings concerning the faculty, curriculum, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	77%		
	Transferred Out	17%		
	Withdrew	6%		
Employment Placement Rate		75.33% for 2016-2017, 2017-2018 & 2018-2019 school years		
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2021	2020	2019	
	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2019	Class of 2018	Class of 2017	
	0.0	0.0	1.6	

Recommendation

Issue the University of South Carolina a license to offer the Master of Sport and Entertainment 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 for Walden University

Background

Walden University (OPEID 02504200), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Doctor of Public Health (DPH). Currently, Walden is licensed to offer a variety of online degree programs requiring field experiences in North Carolina. The DPH degree program prepares public health practitioners to assume positions of leadership and influence in practice-based settings and is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. Walden University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. On August 12, 2021, Adtalem Global Education Inc. (Adtalem) acquired Walden. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) approved Walden's change of ownership application on July 23, 2024, and issued Walden a new Provisional Program Participation Agreement ("PPPA"), thereby approving Walden's continued participation in the Title IV federal financial aid programs administered by ED.

Staff conducted a desk review and made findings concerning the curriculum, supervision of field experiences, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded. The next compliance review and site visit for Walden is scheduled for summer 2025.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	39%		
	Transferred out	31%		
	Withdrew	29%		
Employment placement rate		Does not report on a campuswide basis.		
Federal financial composite score for <i>Adtalem Global Education</i> (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)		2022	2021	2020
		.2	1.4	.7
Three-year cohort default rate		Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019
		0%	0%	1.1%

Recommendation

Issue Walden University a license to offer the Doctor of Public Health.

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 Watts College of Nursing

Background

Watts College of Nursing (OPEID 00648300), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing-LPN to BSN track (LPN-BSN). Watts College of Nursing is a corporate affiliate of the Duke University Health System and is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. The college is currently licensed to offer a pre-licensure BSN degree and seeks to provide an additional pathway with the LPN-BSN program to address North Carolina's nursing shortage. The proposed curriculum remains consistent in quality and content of the approved BSN program and prepares licensed practical nurses to earn a BSN and qualify for NCLEX-RN examination. Staff made findings concerning the curriculum, laboratory and clinical resources, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded. The next compliance visit is scheduled for fall 2025 after the college's upcoming relocation.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	89%	
	Transferred out	0%	
	Withdrew	11%	
Employment placement rate		98.7%	
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2023	2022	2021
	2.3	2.7	3.0
Three-year cohort default rate		N/A ⁱⁱ	

Recommendation

Issue Watts College of Nursing a license to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing-LPN to BSN track.

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 This institution is not found on the current federal loan default rates database. Cohort Default Rate (CDR) data are not included when number of borrowers entering repayment includes 10 or fewer borrowers for all three cohort years.

Staff Report and Recommendation for Aspen University

Background

Aspen University (OPEID 04080300) (“Aspen”) is a new applicant for licensure located in Phoenix, Arizona, seeking to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Completion, MS in Nursing, MS in Nursing-RN-MSN, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Public Health, Master in Business Administration (MBA), BS in Business Administration – Completion Program, BS in Business Administration, Master of Education, Education Specialist in Leadership and Learning Certificate, Certificate in eLearning Pedagogy, Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning, Master of Science in Technology and Innovation, Certificate in Project Management, Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Studies, BS in Early Childhood Studies, BS in Early Childhood Studies – Completion Program, Doctor of Science in Computer Science, MA in Psychology and Addiction Studies, BA in Psychology and Addiction Studies, and BS in Healthcare Administration. Prior to its application filing, Aspen operated degree programs in North Carolina through a state authorization reciprocity agreement (“NC-SARA”) but Aspen’s move from Colorado to Arizona created a lapse in NC-SARA coverage, requiring the institution to seek licensure while it pursues its goal of NC-SARA approval in Arizona. The institution is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). At its June 2024 meeting, DEAC vacated a February 2023 show cause directive after Aspen made substantial progress toward demonstrating compliance, and the institution’s application for accreditation renewal was approved at DEAC’s January meeting.

Staff conducted an on-ground and virtual site visit on March 13, 2024, and made findings regarding the curriculum, faculty qualifications, student outcomes, finance and governance, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	52%		
	Transferred out	10%		
	Withdrew	37%		
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	
	2.9	3.0	3.0	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	
	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	

Recommendation

Issue Aspen University a license to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Completion, MS in Nursing, MS in Nursing-RN-MSN, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Public Health, Master in Business Administration (MBA), BS in Business Administration – Completion Program, BS in Business

Administration, Master of Education, Education Specialist in Leadership and Learning Certificate, Certificate in eLearning Pedagogy, Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning, Master of Science in Technology and Innovation, Certificate in Project Management, Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Studies, BS in Early Childhood Studies, BS in Early Childhood Studies – Completion Program, Doctor of Science in Computer Science, MA in Psychology and Addiction Studies, BA in Psychology and Addiction Studies, and BS in Healthcare Administration.

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 CBD College

Background

Community Based Education and Development, d/b/a/ CBD College, (OPEID 03250300) is a new applicant for licensure located in Los Angeles, California, seeking to offer a Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) and an Associate of Science in Health Information Technology (HIT). Founded in 1982, CBD College is a private, nonprofit benefit institution approved to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education and accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. Additionally, the HIT program is programmatically accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. The institution seeks authorization to comply with the Board of Governors' 2021 expanded oversight of 100 percent online degree programs.

Staff conducted an on-ground and virtual site visit on April 11, 2024, and made findings regarding the curriculum, faculty qualifications, student outcomes, finance and governance, and other matters, to which the institution adequately responded.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
Eight-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	83%		
	Transferred out	10%		
	Withdrew	6%		
Employment placement rate		Does not report on a campuswide basis		
Federal financial composite score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest)	2023	2020	2019	
	2.8	2.2	1.5	
Three-year cohort default rate	Class of 2021	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	
	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	

Recommendation

Issue CBD College a license to offer a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and an Associate of Science in Health Information Technology.

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 Limited License

The University of San Francisco (OPEID 00132500), accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, seeks a limited license to allow three students located in North Carolina to complete the Master of Arts in Public Leadership, with an expiration date of May 31, 2027. The university does not intend to seek further authorization and has taken steps to cease further enrollment in North Carolina.