

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
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

**Thomas W. Ross,
President**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: March 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Licensure of East Tennessee State University

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.

East Tennessee State University has applied for a regular license to offer the following degree program in Asheville, North Carolina:

- Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if East Tennessee State University complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On December 13, 2013, the team of examiners visited the East Tennessee State University campus in Johnson City, TN. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report which contained recommendations. For more details on the degree program 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 East Tennessee State University to offer the above-named degree program in North Carolina subject to annual reports and review at any time. The program will be reviewed within two calendar years of the initiation in North Carolina to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

Constituent High School

North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

East Tennessee State University (ETSU), a public comprehensive university located in Johnson City, is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents. ETSU has been in continuous operation, with students enrolled in degree programs, since its founding as East Tennessee State Normal School in 1911, and has maintained accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) since it was first accredited in 1927. The university now enrolls over 14,600 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

East Tennessee State University is requesting licensure of a Part-Time Advanced Standing Master of Social Work (MSW) Program, to be offered at the Asheville Graduate Center of UNC Asheville through a combination of in-person and online instruction by the ETSU Department of Social Work.

Dr. Frank Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at UNC General Administration, pursuant to the *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina*, appointed a team of examiners to visit the institution on December 13, 2013 and evaluate ETSU's compliance with the licensure standards.

The team of examiners was comprised of:

- Dr. Laurel A. Files (Chair), Associate Chair and Associate Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Special Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (In absentia)
- Becky Kornegay, Research and Instruction Services Librarian, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina
- Dr. Richard E. Neel, Dean Emeritus, Belk College of Business, and Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina (In absentia)
- Dr. Cathryne L. Schmitz, Chair and Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, and Professor, Department of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, 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 items of documentation were reviewed by the

team including curricula for the proposed degree program, course syllabi, faculty curriculum vitae, library and electronic resources, budget data, audited financial statements, instructional resources, the East Tennessee State University *Graduate Catalog* (online), and the *Faculty Handbook* (2013-14).

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of East Tennessee State University.

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Advanced Standing Program

Students who graduate with a B.S.W. degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) within the last five years may apply for Advanced Standing admission. The Advanced Standing program allows students to complete their M.S.W. degree with 37 hours of coursework and field practicum. The ETSU Master of Social Work program is designed to prepare students for advanced clinical professional practice. The foundation portion of the curriculum focuses on providing students a generalist social work perspective, while the second half of the curriculum focuses on preparing students for autonomous clinical practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the *Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners to Review East Tennessee State University's Proposed Master of Social Work Degree Program in Asheville, North Carolina* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included five recommendations and no suggestions. The recommendations addressed issues of additional documentation to be provided to the team of examiners, information required to be published in ETSU's *Catalog* and on its library website, and the archiving of permanent and other critical records of East Tennessee State University students in North Carolina in the unlikely event that the institution discontinues operations.

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 East Tennessee State University's proposed degree program after it received and reviewed the institution's response to the Recommendations contained in the report.

East Tennessee State University 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 East Tennessee State University be licensed to offer the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Advanced Standing Program requested.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of ETSU's Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Advanced

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Standing Program, to be offered at the Asheville Graduate Center of UNC Asheville through a combination of in-person and online instruction.

A site visit to the Asheville location of East Tennessee State University 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.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: March 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Licensure of Frontier Nursing University

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.

Frontier Nursing University has applied for a regular license to offer the following online degree programs in North Carolina:

- Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) in Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) in Nurse Midwifery
- Postgraduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Postgraduate Certificate in Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner
- Postgraduate Certificate in Nurse Midwifery

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if Frontier Nursing University complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On October 22, 2013, the team of examiners visited the Frontier Nursing University campus in Hyden, KY. Following the site 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 Frontier Nursing University to offer the above-named online degree programs in North Carolina subject to annual reports and review at any time. The programs will be reviewed within two calendar years of the initiation in North Carolina to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR FRONTIER NURSING UNIVERSITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Frontier Graduate School of Midwifery was started in 1939 by the Frontier Nursing Service as part of its demonstration project in the care of the mother and child in rural areas of Kentucky. The name of the school was changed to Frontier Nursing University in 2011 to reflect the level of its program offerings, viz., masters and doctoral degrees for nurses. The university, a private non-profit institution located in Hyden, Kentucky, has been offering distance education programs to nurses since 1991.

Frontier Nursing University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC).

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Frontier Nursing University has applied for licensure to offer the following online programs to students in North Carolina:

- Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree in Family Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Midwifery
- Postgraduate Certificates in Family Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Midwifery

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 institution on October 22, 2013 and evaluate Frontier Nursing University's compliance with the licensure standards.

The team of examiners with expertise in the specific disciplines relating to the application was comprised of:

- Dr. Laurel A. Files (Chair), Associate Chair and Associate Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Special Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (In absentia)
- Dr. Robin Webb Corbett, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina
- Dr. Richard E. Neel, Dean Emeritus, Belk College of Business, and Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina (In absentia)
- Dr. Ann Newman, Associate Professor Emeritus, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Julia Shaw-Kokot, Assistant Department Head for User Services, Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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- Dr. Frank Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, 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 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, audited financial statements, budget data, the Frontier Nursing University *Catalog* Volume 2013, and the Frontier Nursing University *Faculty Handbook* (March 2013).

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of Frontier Nursing University.

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.)

The Master of Science in Nursing degree program is offered in three areas: Family Nurse Practitioner (61 Semester Credit Hours), Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner (59 SCH), and Nurse Midwifery (64 SCH). All students are required to attend a four-day orientation session (Frontier Bound) in Hyden, Kentucky reviewing curricula and courses, and learning skills needed for online learning. Students return home to complete Level I courses (Foundations for Practice) and Level II coursework (Clinical Management for Specialty Care). Students then return to Hyden for an eight-day skills-intensive experience (Clinical Bound) which validates students as having acquired the skills necessary to begin their community-based clinical practicum. At the conclusion of the program, students take the appropriate certification exam.

Postgraduate Certificates

This program option is designed for applicants who hold a Master of Science in Nursing degree but are not nationally certified as a family nurse practitioner, women's health care nurse practitioner, or certified nurse-midwife. These students have an individualized program plan. The plan will include completion of all course work for a post-master's certificate that will allow the student to sit for the certification examination as a certified nurse-midwife, family nurse practitioner, or women's health care nurse practitioner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the *Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners to Review Frontier Nursing University's Proposed Online Master of Science in Nursing Degree Programs and Postgraduate Certificate Programs in Family Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Midwifery* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included twelve suggestions and six 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*.

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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 course syllabi, the tuition guaranty bond, information required to be published in the *Catalog*, and the archiving of permanent and other critical records of Frontier Nursing University students in North Carolina in the unlikely event that the institution discontinues operations.

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 Frontier Nursing University's degree and certificate programs after it received and reviewed the institution's response to the Recommendations and Suggestions contained in the report.

Frontier Nursing University 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 Frontier Nursing University be licensed to offer the degree and certificate programs requested.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the following degree and certificate programs, to be offered online to students in North Carolina by Frontier Nursing University:

- Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree in Family Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Midwifery
- Postgraduate Certificates in Family Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Midwifery

A follow-up review of Frontier Nursing University's degree and certificate programs offered online to students in North Carolina 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.