

SUMMARY OF LESLEY UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lesley University (Lesley) is a private, coeducational university in Cambridge, Massachusetts seeking to expand and offer clinical placements in North Carolina. The institution was founded in 1909 as the Lesley School (aka Lesley Normal School), and envisioned as “an institution that would prepare young women to enter early childhood careers as leaders and catalysts for change.” The school reorganized in 1941, and was authorized to award baccalaureate degrees in 1944, when it became known as Lesley College. The college began to award graduate degrees in 1954. In 1998, the Art Institute of Boston and Lesley College merged, becoming Lesley University in 2001. The university, accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, includes the College of Art and Design, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Education, and the Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS SUBMITTED FOR LICENSURE:

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with concentrations in Expressive Arts Therapy, Art Therapy, Dance/Movement Therapy, and Music Therapy

Staff Recommendation: APPROVAL OF LICENSURE

Program delivery method: hybrid

Projected start date: Spring 2018

Projected enrollment: 5 students

Annual tuition and fees: \$23,082

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Expressive Arts Therapy degree program prepares students to pursue licensure as a psychotherapist or clinical mental health practitioner in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to utilize art practices as part of the healing process. Program materials demonstrate integrative arts and clinical training via both online and in-person modalities. The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Art Therapy program received initial Approval status from the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) in 1982 and satisfies coursework requirements for the national Registered Art Therapist (ATR) credential with the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB). Art Therapy students complete a total of 1,150 hours of field experience in the student’s home state. The curriculum content for Lesley’s Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Dance/Movement Therapy (DMT) is in line with educational standards for DMT education, which requires courses in movement observation and assessment, counseling theories and applications, expressive arts therapies principles and practices, DMT theories and principles, clinical supervision and oversight, and direct practice within clinical training via fieldwork/internship experiences. The low-residency model is approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA), thus allowing graduates to practice as a registered dance/movement therapist (R-DMT). The Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy program includes elements necessary to sit for the Music Therapy Board Certification Examination. The 60-credit low-residency model combines online studies during the traditional academic year with an annual, required summer three-week intensive residency on Lesley’s Cambridge, Massachusetts campus. The curriculum includes required courses in expressive arts therapy, music therapy, and mental health counseling, as well as 1225 hours of supervised field experience.

INSTITUTIONAL METRICS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION INFORMATION:

APPENDIX N

Because Lesley University has not been licensed in North Carolina and is accredited regionally, there is limited institutional metric reporting.

Metric	
Student Retention Rate	80% (academic year 15-16)
4-year Graduation Rate (Bachelor's Degree)	43% (students beginning Fall 2010)
6-year Graduation Rate (Bachelor's Degree)	55% (students beginning Fall 2010)
Student Loan Default Rate	4.3%
Employment Placement Rate	N/A

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS AND INSTITUTION'S RESPONSE:

After review of the application, the Team of Examiners and State Authorization staff submitted requirements for the institution to address concerning its North Carolina requirements for faculty qualifications, oversight of clinical placements, and financial metrics. The institution met those requirements by providing documentation concerning the faculty and oversight of clinical placement. State Authorization staff will ensure that the representations made by the institution have been adhered to at the two and six year follow-up reviews and during its yearly review of annual report data.