

STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Background

The University of Southern California (USC), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks approval to offer a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in North Carolina. USC seeks to offer clinical placements for these programs and has no current plans to establish a brick-and-mortar presence in the state. USC is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Program Site: Various clinical sites in NC

Projected start date: Upon Licensure

Projected enrollment: 5-10

USC's hybrid DPT program is in its second year and is programmatically accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. The reviewer for this program found no instances of noncompliance with the standards and praised both the program's curriculum design and the qualifications of the faculty.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	92%	
	Transferred Out	5%	
	Withdrew	3%	
Employment Placement Rate ⁱⁱ		Does not report – not required by accreditor	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱⁱ	2017	2016	2015
	3.0	3.0	2.8
Three-year cohort default rate ^{iv}	Class of 2015	Class of 2014	Class of 2013
	1.8	2.0	1.7

State authorization staff did not receive any complaints regarding USC in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Recommendation

License USC to offer a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

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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 Unless otherwise noted, this data is reported by the institution to its accreditor according to its accreditor's standards and definitions. It is the most recent data available for the program under consideration.

ⁱⁱⁱ This is a general measure of the institution's financial solvency. A score of 1.5 or greater means the institution does not face additional federal restrictions on operating because of financial solvency concerns.

^{iv} Three-year cohort default rate ("CDR") is the percentage of graduates who borrowed federal loans and who defaulted on those loans within three years of graduating. For example, a CDR for a cohort graduating in 2015 can be calculated three years later, in 2018.

**STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR
NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY**

Background

Northcentral University (Northcentral), located in Scottsdale, Arizona, is an existing licensee in good standing. Northcentral seeks to expand program offerings in North Carolina to include a Master of Science in Child and Adolescent Developmental Psychology, Master of Science in Educational Psychology, Master of Science in Forensic Psychology, Master of Science in Health Psychology, Master of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Master of Social Work, and a Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy. Northcentral anticipates its students only performing clinical rotations and externships for these programs, and the university does not have any current plans to establish a brick-and-mortar presence in North Carolina.

Because this application would represent a major expansion of Northcentral's programmatic offerings in North Carolina, staff and a team of examiners performed a review of both programmatic standards and institution-wide standards. Staff and some of the examiners also conducted a site visit on February 13, 2019.

Institution-wide standards

Staff and the team of examiners made fifteen institution-wide findings, which required Northcentral's response. The findings included requiring disclosures to students and prospective students, assurances that student/faculty interaction could be monitored in courses delivered online, ensuring that Northcentral employed adequate procedures to identify appropriate clinical sites in the state, and ensuring that Northcentral's online library met statutory standards. Northcentral adequately responded to each finding.

The process also included a determination of whether Northcentral met the requirement that an institution demonstrate a likelihood that it will remain financially solvent for 150% of the projected completion time for its longest program. Northcentral underwent a restructuring, including a conversion from a for-profit to a non-profit corporation, in 2019. The team's subject matter expert reviewed three years of audited financial statements, revenue projections, and other documents, and ultimately opined that Northcentral would be able to do so.

Master of Science in Child and Adolescent Developmental Psychology, Master of Science in Health Psychology, Master of Science in Industrial Organizational Psychology, Master of Science in Educational Psychology, and Master of Science in Forensic Psychology

Staff Recommendation: Approval
Program Site: Various clinical sites
Projected start date: Upon licensure
Projected enrollment: 10-15 per program

The subject matter expert for these programs made findings which included questions regarding the course syllabi, disclosure to students and prospective students that the programs are not designed to lead and do not lead to professional licensure, procedures for identifying appropriate clinical sites in North Carolina, and faculty qualifications. Northcentral adequately responded to each finding.

Master of Social Work

Staff Recommendation: Approval
 Program Site: Various clinical sites
 Projected start date: Upon licensure
 Projected enrollment: 10-15

The findings for this program included mandating that Northcentral disclose to prospective North Carolina students that the program is in programmatic accreditation pre-candidacy status, that the program more fully develop and describe internal program evaluation procedures, and that the program develop a *Practicum Handbook* formalizing and disclosing student procedures which will be used in North Carolina. Northcentral adequately responded to each finding.

Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy

Staff Recommendation: Approval
 Program Site: Various clinical sites
 Projected start date: Upon licensure
 Projected enrollment: 10-15

The findings for this program included revisions to course syllabi and that Northcentral more clearly define what the type of employment the program's graduates are qualified to pursue and differentiate the program from programs leading to professional licensure. Northcentral adequately responded to the findings.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	40%	
	Transferred Out	20%	
	Withdrew	40%	
Employment Placement Rate ⁱⁱ		Does not report – not required by accreditor	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱⁱ	2017	2016	2015
	0.2	0.2	0.2
Three-year cohort default rate ^{iv}	Class of 2015	Class of 2014	Class of 2013
	5.3	5.6	4.5

State authorization staff did not receive any complaints regarding Northcentral in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Recommendation

License Northcentral University to offer a Master of Science in Child and Adolescent Developmental Psychology, Master of Science in Educational Psychology, Master of Science in Forensic Psychology, Master of Science in Health Psychology, Master of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Master of Social Work, and a Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy in North Carolina.

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STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR UNITED STATES UNIVERSITY

Background

United States University (USU), located in San Diego, California, an existing licensee in good standing, seeks approval to offer a Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Educator and a Master of Science in Nursing – Health Care Leadership in North Carolina. USU seeks to offer clinical placements for these programs and has no current plans to establish a brick-and-mortar presence in the state. USU is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

MSN – Nurse Educator and MSN – Health Care Leadership

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Program Site: Various clinical sites in NC

Projected start date: 2020

Projected enrollment: 5 per program

Staff and a team of examiners conducted a review of USU's application and visited on-site with USU faculty, staff, and students on November 15, 2018. The visit yielded a report that contained a number of findings, including 26 for which responses from USU were mandatory. USU thoroughly responded to the report, including making major curricular changes to these two programs. Staff believes that USU's responses show that it will operate in compliance with the Rules and Standards. These programs are part of a larger application from USU; the Board of Governors approved the other programs within that application in May 2019.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric				
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	49%		
	Transferred Out	7%		
	Withdrew	44%		
Employment Placement Rate ⁱⁱ		Does not report – not required by accreditor		
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱⁱ		2017	2016	2015
		1.7	1.5	1.8
Three-year cohort default rate ^{iv}		Class of 2015	Class of 2014	Class of 2013
		11.4	9.6	3.5

State authorization staff did not receive any complaints regarding USU in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Recommendation

License USU to offer the MSN – Nurse Educator and the MSN – Health Care Leadership.

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ⁱⁱⁱ This is a general measure of the institution's financial solvency. A score of 1.5 or greater means the institution does not face additional federal restrictions on operating because of financial solvency concerns.

^{iv} Three-year cohort default rate ("CDR") is the percentage of graduates who borrowed federal loans and who defaulted on those loans within three years of graduating. For example, a CDR for a cohort graduating in 2015 can be calculated three years later, in 2018.

**STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR
THE CHICAGO SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Background

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (The Chicago School), located in Los Angeles, California, is a first-time applicant for licensure. The institution is non-profit and regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The Chicago School seeks licensure for a Master of Science in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, a Ph.D. in Applied Behavioral Analysis, and a post-graduate certificate in Applied Behavioral Analysis. The Chicago School anticipates that its students will only perform clinical rotations and externships for these programs, and the institution does not have any current plans to establish a brick-and-mortar presence in North Carolina. Staff and a team of examiners conducted a site visit on May 14, 2019.

Master of Science in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, Ph.D. in Applied Behavioral Analysis, and post-graduate certificate in Applied Behavioral Analysis

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Program Site: Various clinical sites

Projected start date: Upon licensure

Projected enrollment: 5-10 per program

Staff and the team of examiners made nine findings that required a response from the institution. The findings focused on ensuring that North Carolina students understood that the Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology program is not designed to lead to professional licensure in North Carolina and does not do so. The findings also required student disclosures in the institution's catalog, ensuring that the institution's refund policies are consistent with North Carolina requirements, and that The Chicago School ensure that North Carolina student records may be transferred to the state archives if the school ever ceases operations in the state.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	Data not available	
	Transferred Out		
	Withdrew		
Employment Placement Rate		The school reports a 100% placement rate based on alumni surveys.	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱ		2017	2016
		3.0	3.0
Three-year cohort default rate ⁱⁱⁱ		Class of 2015	Class of 2014
		4.4	3.4
			Class of 2013
			2.5

State authorization staff did not receive any complaints regarding The Chicago School in the 2018-2019 academic year. Staff conducted a nationwide search of complaints filed in the last year against The Chicago School through the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer SENTINEL database. The search did not reveal

complaints of a volume or nature that would reasonably call into question the institution's integrity.

Recommendation

License The Chicago School to offer Master of Science in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, a Ph.D. in Applied Behavioral Analysis, and a post-graduate certificate in Applied Behavioral Analysis in North Carolina.

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ⁱⁱⁱ Three-year cohort default rate ("CDR") is the percentage of graduates who borrowed federal loans and who defaulted on those loans within three years of graduating. For example, a CDR for a cohort graduating in 2015 can be calculated three years later, in 2018.

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Requests for Limited Licenses

The following institution, located in a jurisdiction that is not a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, seeks limited licensure to conduct postsecondary activity for a limited period of time.

Loma Linda University, a private, regionally accredited non-profit institution located in Loma Linda, California, seeks limited licensure to allow one student to participate in a clinical rotation. The clinical rotation will occur in Charlotte. Staff recommends issuing a limited license to the institution allowing its student to conduct the clinical rotation, with the license expiring on May 31, 2020.