

**Staff Report and Recommendation
Johnson and Wales University**

Background

Johnson and Wales University – Charlotte, OPEID 000340410, (Johnson and Wales), an existing licensee in good standing, is a private, not-for-profit institution with a main campus located in Providence, Rhode Island, and a large residential campus located in Charlotte. Johnson and Wales is regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education and seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food Systems and a Master of Science in Sports Leadership. Staff most recently conducted a site visit in May 2018.

These programs are already offered at Johnson and Wales’ main campus and, and are similar in CIP code and faculty composition to successful existing programs at the Charlotte campus. Staff and external examiners conducted a review of Johnson and Wales’ application. With respect to the Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food Systems, the reviewer made findings related to faculty qualifications. With respect to the Master of Science in Sports Leadership, the reviewer made findings with respect to the course syllabi, number of faculty, and the program’s methods for ensuring courses delivered online are of requisite quality. Based on the institution’s response to the findings, staff believe that the proposed programs will operate in compliance with the Rules and Standards.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	58%	
	Transferred Out	21%	
	Withdrew	21%	
Employment Placement Rate ⁱⁱ		Does not report – not required by accreditor	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱⁱ	2019	2018	2017
	2.4	2.9	3.0
Three-year cohort default rate ^{iv}	Class of 2017	Class of 2016	Class of 2015
	9.4	7.0	6.9

System Office staff have not received any student complaints regarding Johnson and Wales during the current academic year.

Recommendation

Issue a license to Johnson and Wales to conduct the postsecondary degree activity described in this recommendation.

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

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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
The University of Southern California

Background

The University of Southern California (USC), an existing licensee in good standing, seeks approval to offer a Master's of Science in Gerontology in North Carolina. USC seeks to offer clinical placements for this program 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. Staff last visited USC in May 2019.

Staff and an examiner reviewed the proposed program. The examiner made findings related to required student disclosures for online course delivery, disclosures related to clinical sites, and policies and procedures for vetting and evaluating clinical sites. USC adequately responded to the findings.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	92%	
	Transferred Out	5%	
	Withdrew	2%	
Employment Placement Rate ⁱⁱ		Does not report – not required by accreditor	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱⁱ		2019	2018
		2.5	2.9
Three-year cohort default rate ^{iv}		Class of 2017	Class of 2016
		1.2	1.6

State authorization staff did not receive any complaints regarding USC in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Recommendation

License USC (OPEID 00132800) to offer a Master's of Science in Gerontology.

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 South College

Background

South College - Asheville (South), an existing licensee in good standing, is a private, proprietary institution with a main campus located in Knoxville, Tennessee, and a brick-and-mortar campus located in Asheville. South is regionally accredited by the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and seeks licensure to expand its program offerings to include a Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN). Staff last visited South College on March 18, 2018.

This program is offered at South's other campuses, and are similar in CIP code and faculty composition to existing programs at its Asheville campus. Additionally, the program is programmatically accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and accreditor recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the United States Department of Education. Staff and external examiners conducted a review of South's application and made findings related to the transferring in of credits, syllabi, course objectives, and related matters. Based on South's response to the findings, staff believes that South will operate the program in accordance with the rules and standards for licensure.

Institutional Metrics and Consumer Protection Information

Metric			
8-year outcomes ⁱ	Graduated	22%	
	Transferred Out	33%	
	Withdrew	44%	
Employment Placement Rate ⁱⁱ		Does not report – not required by accreditor. South’s most recent NCLEX nursing licensure report for its BSN program shows 84.62% of that program’s graduates achieving licensure.	
Federal Financial Composite Score (3.0 is highest, -1.0 is lowest) ⁱⁱⁱ	2018	2017	2016
	1.6	1.6	1.6
Three-year cohort default rate ^{iv}	Class of 2017	Class of 2016	Class of 2015
	15.4	17.9	16.6

System Office staff received one student complaint regarding South University during the current academic year, which the institution responded to and resolved.

Recommendation

Issue a license to South (OPEID 00493805) to conduct the postsecondary degree activity described in this recommendation.

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.

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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.

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Staff Report and Recommendation for Limited Licenses

South University – High Point (OPEID 01303923) seeks limited licenses to offer a Bachelor's of Science in Software and Mobile Apps and an Associate's of Science in Medical Assisting to students who were enrolled at Independence University at the time of that institution's closure, with an expiration date of April 30, 2023 for the Associate's of Science in Medical Assisting and July 31, 2024 for the Bachelor's of Science in Software and Mobile Apps. Under authority delegated by the Board and the President, Dr. Kimberly van Noort gave staff approval to these limited licenses, and they are now before the Board for ratification.