



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Sarah S. Benson *Sarah S. Benson*

**SUBJECT:** Provisional Degree Authority and Master Plan: AMG School of Licensed Practical Nursing LLC to Offer an A.S. Program in Nursing

**DATE:** December 3, 2020

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Betsy...*  
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents confer upon the AMG School of Licensed Practical Nursing LLC (AMG) provisional authority to award the A.S. degree for a period of up to five years and approve a master plan for AMG to offer an A.S. degree in Nursing?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

**Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the Full Board at its December 2020 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Procedural History**

AMG, a for-profit school located in Brooklyn, New York, submitted a request for degree-granting authority to offer an A. S. degree program in Nursing. Education Law §224(1)(a) provides, "No individual, association, partnership or corporation not holding university, college or other degree conferring powers by special charter from the legislature of this state or from the regents, shall confer any degree..." Section 3.58 (b) of the Rules of the Board of Regents provides that "A for-profit institution may be granted degree-conferring authority by the Board of Regents in accordance with the procedures of this section. Such an institution that has no degree-granting authority must first obtain provisional authority to confer degrees for a period of up to five years..." Provisional degree authorization and master plan are needed as the proposed A.S. program in Nursing is the first degree program to be offered at AMG.

## **Background Information**

AMG received Commissioner's Consent to file a certificate of incorporation with the Department of State to offer a non-credit certificate program in Practical Nursing-Adult in 2010. The School submitted an application to offer an A.S. program in Nursing. The proposed program will provide access to nursing education for local and regional post-secondary students and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) who are historically under-represented in the discipline and many of whom have limited English proficiency.

The curriculum consists of 66 credits (30 credits in general education and 36 credits in the major) which can be completed in two years. General education courses include human anatomy and physiology with laboratory instruction, microbiology with laboratory instruction, nutrition, introductory and developmental psychology, mathematics, English composition, and speech and communication. Nursing courses include 20 credits of theory, 4 credits (120 hours) of lab experience; and 12 credits (540 hours) of clinical. Nursing didactic courses include pharmacology, generic theory and fundamental skills, adult medical-surgical care (acute, chronic, and complex care), specialty care (maternal-newborn, pediatric, geriatric, and psychiatric-mental health care), and a transitional professional seminar. Integrated into the curriculum is required content on ethics, child abuse, and infection control.

Post-secondary applicants must have successfully completed high school and met entrance examination (HESI) benchmarks in reading, verbal skills, and mathematics; provide an official high school transcript or its equivalent, proof of citizenship and residency, and two letters of reference. Applicants must complete an essay and an interview. Applicants who meet the following criteria can be admitted as advanced standing students: holding a current unrestricted license as an LPN and an LPN certificate or diploma from an accredited program with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater. For these students, up to 25 credits of general education courses completed at an accredited institution with a minimum grade of B could be transferred into the program. Official transcripts of all college courses are required.

The students will primarily be recruited from adjacent communities in the New York City metropolitan region. Enrollment projections for new students for Year 1 are 60, for Years 2, 3 and 4 are 120, and for Year 5 are 180 with 300 students (new and continuing students) at year 5. Student demographics are expected to mirror current school and regional demographics: 85% Black/African American; 8.7% Hispanic; 3.5% White; 0.8% Asian; and 1.8 % Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders.

The School houses 10 technology equipped classrooms (9,000 sq. ft.), two fully equipped simulation laboratories; library space (4,000 sq. ft) with adjacent group study rooms; 10 furnished and equipped office spaces for faculty and staff, additional shared adjunct faculty office space (~20,000 sq. ft.); as well as additional offices for senior administrators, administrators, and staff. Separate meeting, lounge, and dining spaces exist for the faculty, staff, and student body.

The 12-bay (bed) (2,000 Sq. Ft) simulation labs, with adjacent debriefing and conference spaces, are equipped with high-fidelity mannequins, task trainers, AV

equipment, and basic patient care supplies and equipment. The program affiliates with 11 health care settings including ambulatory, acute care, and long-term care settings. Affiliates have provided memoranda of understanding (MOU) indicating their ability to accommodate additional students.

In addition to the current 13 full-time faculty and 6 part-time faculty, the School will hire additional 10 full-time faculty and 11 part-time faculty over five years to support the growth of the program. The program will maintain a faculty to student ratio of 1:30 or less in the classroom and 1:10 or less in the clinical setting.

Staff members reviewed the application and determined that the proposed A.S. program in Nursing meets the standards of registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and the School meets the provisions specified in Section 3.58 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. As part of the review process, a staff member participated in the peer review virtual site visit to the School. The purpose of the site visit was to assess whether the School has the capacity to offer the A.S. program. The peer reviewers concluded that the School has the financial resources necessary to accomplish its objectives; the proposed program meets the program registration standards.

As part of the Master Plan Amendment process, a canvass of the institutions in the New York City region and the institutions offering nursing programs leading to the A.S. and A.A.S. degree in New York State was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. We received no objections.

### **Related Regents Items**

Not applicable.

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize AMG to confer the A.S. degree on students successfully completing the registered program for a period beginning immediately and ending on December 31, 2025 and approve a master plan amendment for the School to offer an A.S. program in Nursing. This amendment will be effective until December 31, 2021, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term contingent upon the School maintaining the degree-granting authority. At least 12 months prior to the end of the provisional authority period, the School must apply for permanent authority to confer degrees.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the provisional degree authorization and master plan, the Department will register the proposed program, and the School will proceed to enroll students.