



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

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

SUBJECT: State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University: Authorization to Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.) degree

DATE: December 30, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): *[Signature]*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents authorize the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY) to confer the O.T.D. degree at State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board at its January 2022 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

At its November 20, 2019 meeting, SUNY Board of Trustees authorized State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University to offer the O.T.D. program. On September 13, 2019, the Department received the request from the University to offer a post-licensure O.T.D. program in Occupational Therapy.

Background Information

Paragraph (f) of subdivision (2) of §355 of the Education Law authorizes the State University Board of Trustees:

To grant all degrees, diplomas and certificates which heretofore [i.e., July 1, 1948] have been granted or have been authorized to be granted upon the completion of courses of study in any state-operated institution which now is or hereafter may be in the state university, prior to the acquisition of such institution by the state university, and also such other degrees as the regents may hereafter specifically authorize them to grant.

Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University's first use of the O.T.D. degree title. Board of Regents approval of this authorization will allow the registration of acceptable programs leading to the O.T.D. degree.

At State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University, in addition to the undergraduate degrees, the trustees are authorized to award the following master's degrees and higher: Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.), Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.), Doctor of Professional Studies (D.P.S.), Doctor of Medical Science (Med.Sc.D), Doctor of Public Health (D.P.H.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The College has an existing licensure qualifying M.S. program in Occupational Therapy.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize the SUNY Board of Trustees to award the O.T.D. degree on duly qualified students successfully completing the O.T.D. program at State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University effective January 11, 2022.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approve the degree authorization, the Department will register the program and the University will proceed to recruit and enroll students.