



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*
SUBJECT: Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State: Saint Mary's College of California
DATE: February 24, 2020
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharon L. Tabor*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents renew permission for Saint Mary's College of California to offer courses from its Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Performing Arts in New York City?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and regulation.

Proposed Handling

The issue will come before the Full Board at its March 2020 meeting.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Saint Mary's College of California (SMCC) is a private Catholic liberal arts college located in Moraga, California. The institution is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The Board of Regents first granted SMCC permission to offer liberal arts courses from its Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Performing Arts in New York City in March

2010. In March 2015, SMCC's permission to operate in New York was renewed for the period March 9, 2015 through March 17, 2020.

SMCC has designed the Liberal Education for Arts Professionals (LEAP) program to enable professional dancers in the New York City area to earn a bachelor's degree without interrupting their careers as performers. The LEAP program admits students who have already demonstrated proficiency in the Performing Arts, and the majority of the program's New York course offerings focus on the liberal arts education component of the degree. All students take ten courses (35 credits) of face-to-face coursework in New York. The remainder of the degree requirements are completed through online/challenge-by-examination coursework, prior learning assessments, and transfer credits from other institutions. The program typically offers four or five face-to-face courses per year in New York.

All LEAP students are part-time, and the program accommodates these professional dancers by holding classes in a location convenient to performance venues and by allowing students to take a semester or year off while performing on tour or in another location. The program has 30 students currently enrolled and has served 77 students since the most recent renewal of permission to operate. Because the program serves part-time students with a flexible schedule, it is typical for students to take longer than four years to graduate. For example, the ten graduates from the 2018-2019 academic year began their studies between 2011 and 2016.

Since the most recent renewal of permission to operate in New York State, adjustments were made to course offerings in response to changes in the core curriculum at SMCC. The LEAP program has also undergone an administrative restructuring due to the retirement of the former director.

The LEAP administrative office at 330 West 38th was renovated in 2018 to include a classroom. The program employs a local program coordinator who provides administrative support for the program and academic advisement to students. Other SMCC resources, such as the library, Student Disability Services, the Center for Writing Across the Curriculum, and Career Services, are accessible on campus and online. Staff members in these offices have been trained and equipped to work remotely with LEAP students, and students are reminded each semester of the support services that are built into their experience as SMCC students.

Related Regents Items

[February 2010 – Permission to Operate in New York State: Saint Mary's College of California](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/March2010/0310brca2.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/March2010/0310brca2.htm>)

[March 2015 - Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State: Saint Mary's College of California](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Mar%202015/315brca3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Mar%202015/315brca3.pdf>)

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents renew Saint Mary's College of California's permission to operate in New York to offer liberal arts courses from its Bachelor of Arts program in Performing Arts at 330 West 38th Street in Manhattan.

This approval will be effective for a five-year period beginning on March 18, 2020 and ending on March 31, 2025.

Timetable for Implementation

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If SMCC seeks to renew its permission to operate after the current term, the institution must notify the Department no later than March 31, 2024.