

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 to grant.

At the State University of New York Empire State College, SUNY Trustees are authorized to confer the degrees of Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), Associate in Occupational Studies (A.O.S.), Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Professional Studies (B.P.S.), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), and Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) on students successfully completing registered programs. Since SUNY Empire State College now seeks to offer a program leading to the M.Ed., Regents authorization is required because the College is not currently authorized to award the M.Ed. degree.

The Master of Education program proposed by Empire State College's School for Graduate Studies will prepare professionals with educational responsibilities to advance as leaders and innovators. The College currently offers Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) programs leading to a New York State teacher certificate.

The proposed program will provide a generalist core curriculum of educational foundations, principles, and practices to K-12 teachers with initial certification and others interested in teaching and learning. All courses will have a fully online format. Students will be able to complete the 36-credit program in two years. The two initial concentration strands, both focusing primarily on secondary education, will be in Literacy and in Foundations of Teaching.

The Department has determined that the program, if approved, would meet the registration standards set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize the State University of New York Empire State College to confer the Master of Education degree on students successfully completing registered M.Ed. programs effective May 20, 2013.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board authorizes the State University of New York Empire State College to confer the Master of Education degree, the Department will proceed to register the program and the institution will proceed to recruit and enroll students.