



**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: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Master Plan: Initial Authorization of Albert Einstein College of
Medicine to Award Degrees

DATE: April 26, 2018

AUTHORIZATIONS: 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan to authorize Albert Einstein College of Medicine to award degrees and offer programs within the disciplines of health professions and biological sciences?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board for consideration at its May 2018 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Background Information

Albert Einstein College of Medicine has been in operation in New York State since 1955 under Yeshiva University. The College is currently finalizing the ownership and operational transition of the school from Yeshiva University to the Montefiore Medicine Academic Health system and seeking a provisional charter from the Board of Regents (this will be a separate item before the Full Board for consideration at the May 2018 meeting). The following degree programs are offered at the College: M.D. in Medicine; Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences; M.S. in Clinical Research Methods; and M.S. in Bioethics.

The M.D. program consists of 178 credits (88 pre-clinical; 90 clinical) and can be completed in four years. The pre-clerkship education provides students with the opportunity to acquire appropriate knowledge bases in biological and behavioral sciences, population sciences, and the mechanisms of disease. Starting from the third year, the students begin a sequence of clerkships in internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, family medicine, geriatrics, and radiology. Admission into the M.D. program is based on review of the following documents: the AMCAS application, academic record, personal comments, roster of experiences, letters of recommendation, the College's secondary application, written and verbal communication with the Admissions Office, and interview. The following four competencies are evaluated: Co-Curricular Activities and Relevant Experiences; Communication Skills; Personal and Professional Development; and Knowledge.

The Ph.D. program in Biomedical Sciences is 90 credits (21 didactic; 69 research/thesis). In most instances it can be completed in five years. The curriculum consists of advanced didactic instruction on the critical subjects of biomedicine (e.g., biochemistry, genetics, cell biology, and biostatistics). This program also includes 4-5 years' work in a research laboratory of a student's choice under a senior mentor. During this time the candidate learns and applies scientific techniques and approaches that will enable him or her to become an independent scientist. There are also courses and seminars that acquaint the graduate student with other potential careers appropriate for men and women with a Ph.D. in biomedical science. These include introductions to careers in education, working for industry, and editorial and communications.

The M.S. program in Clinical Research Methods is 35 credits. It trains future investigators from across the entire spectrum of clinical research activities, bringing together investigators with differing perspectives to learn a common language and a shared set of skills. The curriculum focuses on epidemiology and study design; biostatistics and data analysis; grant writing; the role of the IRB, and research ethics.

The major emphasis of the 32-credit M.S. program in Bioethics is the comprehensive teaching of medical ethics as it relates to thorny problems in clinical medicine such as "end of life" issues, organ transplantation and human subject research. The program includes 10 credits in Bioethics and Medical Humanities I and II (6 credits) and Capstone/Thesis project (4 credits). The remaining 22 credits are a range of courses offered primarily through Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University.

Applicants to the M.S. and Ph.D. programs need to submit the Application Form, a personal statement, Curriculum Vitae, two letters of recommendation, and official transcripts. In addition, applications for the Ph.D. program must have successfully completed pre-requisite undergraduate courses in sciences/mathematics and have had a sustained research experience. All applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within three years of expected matriculation date. Competitive applicants will be invited to campus for an interview visit. Applicants to the M.S. program in Clinical Research Methods need to submit a Research Plan, Mentor(s) Letter;

Guarantee of Protected Time (Faculty and Fellows only); and Affirmation of Good Academic Standing (Medical Students only).

In 2017, the College enrolled 1,066 students (M.D.: 710; Ph.D.: 228; M.D./Ph.D.: 57; Clinical Research Methods: 28; Bioethics: 43). The plan is to grow the Ph.D. program to have 310 Ph.D. students by 2021, including those pursuing both a Ph.D. and an M.D. degree. The size of the rest of the programs will remain stable. The College has a diverse student population: 51% are white; 26.5% are Asian; 9% are Black or African-American, and 6.7% are Hispanic/Latino.

The College has adequate financial resources, facilities, equipment, and library resources to support the programs. Completed in the fall of 2009, the 22,000 sq. ft. Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center was built to meet the educational needs of the College's medical school students as a resource for the teaching and assessment of clinical skills. In addition, the College has developed study space for students outside of their residential facilities. There is approximately 35,636 sq. ft. of study space, with a grand total of 1,085 seats available for all students. The newly renovated (2013-2014) Education Center (study corridor and learning studios) contains approximately 11,710 sq. ft. of study space with seating for approximately 400 students.

The College has approximately 365 full-time faculty at the Assistant Professor level and above. Ten (10) of them are dedicated to full time teaching. They are course leaders who are responsible for the following activities: setting curricular objectives; determining course grading policies; evaluating the achievement of curricular objectives; providing academic advice to students; and overseeing the instructors who are content experts for each lecture to ensure that course objectives are met. The rest of the full-time faculty devote 75% of their time to research and 25% of their time to teaching.

Canvass Results: A canvass was conducted of all institutions in the New York City region and of all institutions offering M.D. programs. Six institutions responded. Five institutions indicated that they have no comments. One institution commented on the collaborative relationship with Albert Einstein College of Medicine in educating students and research.

Department Review: Staff members from the Office of the Professions reviewed the application materials. In addition, as part of the review process, in March 2018, they participated in the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) site visit to the College. Based upon our review, it is determined that the programs at Albert Einstein College meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the master plan to authorize Albert Einstein College of Medicine to offer the following programs: M.D. in Medicine; Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences; M.S. in Clinical Research Methods; and M.S. in Bioethics.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan, the Department will register these programs.