



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: The College of Westchester: Master Plan Amendment to Offer its first Associate in Science (A.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree Programs in Human Services and Regents Authorization to Award the Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree

DATE: September 1, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize The College of Westchester to offer its first Associate in Science (A.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree programs in Human Services and authorize the institution to award the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its September 2022 meeting.

Procedural History

The College submitted proposals to offer programs in Human Services leading to the Associate in Science (A.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree awards. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed programs will be the College's first programs at the associate and bachelor's levels in the disciplinary area of Social Sciences. Regents authorization is also required for the College to award the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree.

Background Information

The College of Westchester is proposing to offer its first associate and bachelor's programs in Human Services. The College's decision to develop these programs reaffirms its core mission "to provide career-focused degree programs leading the gainful employment in areas of workforce demand in the New York Metropolitan region." The proposed programs will be offered at the College's campus in White Plains and fully online.

The proposed programs were designed to offer a well-rounded course of study in human services with an emphasis on the development of interpersonal communication skills, conflict resolution, ethics, professional responsibility, case management and documentation. The programs' curricula each include a set of major courses in human services including but not limited to: Introduction to Human Services, Introduction to Counseling, Research Methods, and Case Management. The proposed programs also require the completion of courses in the liberal arts and sciences including intensive writing courses as well as general education courses including Statistics, Psychology, Interpersonal and Group Dynamics, Conflict Communication and Resolution, and Adult Development. Complementing the instructional experience is a semester-long internship required in the campus-based version of the proposed program or, in the online version, a senior capstone project course.

Academic reviews of the proposed programs have been completed by the Department. The Department determined that the proposed degree programs meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In July 2022, following the standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Hudson Valley Region. There were no objections or statements of negative impact submitted.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize The College of Westchester to offer Associate in Science (A.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) programs in Human Services and authorize the institution to award the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment and authorizes the College to award the A.S. degree, the Department will register the proposed programs.