

Higher Education Program Approval/Registration

Office of College and University Evaluation

Assuring quality in an era of transformative change

**Board of Regents Meeting
November 2014**

Board of Regents Authority for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

SOURCE	AUTHORITY	PURPOSE
Education Law 201	Regents Purpose	encourage and promote education, visit and inspect institutions
Education Law 207	Regents Legislative Power	determine educational policies and establish rules relating to education
Regents Rule 13.1	Commissioner's Authority	by extension of E.L. 207, Regents authorized the Commissioner to promulgate regulations governing the registration of courses of study
Education Law 210	Regents Authorized Activity	register domestic and foreign institutions in terms of New York standards
Education Law 215	Regents Authorized Activity	visit, examine into, and inspect any institution; require reports, as often as desired; suspend the charter or any of the rights and privileges of an institution
Education Law 216 institution	Regents Authorized Activity	incorporate any university, college...or other or association...for the promotion of...education in any way
Education Law 237 State	Regents Responsibility	master planning for higher education in New York

Commissioner's Regulations §52.2

Approval/Registration is required for:

- All credit-bearing degree programs (at existing colleges and as part of applications for new colleges)
- All programs leading to a certificate or diploma at proprietary institutions
- Programs offered at branch campuses
- Any previously registered program in which major changes have been made

Program Approval Standards - §52.2

Resources

- Financial
- Facilities
- Equipment
- Libraries

Faculty

- Number
- Qualifications
- Evaluation
- Course load

Curricula and Awards

- Clear and well defined course objectives & requirements
- Frequency of course offerings
- Credit earned
- Completion of Program

Administration

- institutional and academic policies (admissions, etc.)
- adequate academic support services
- student records

Program Approval Enhancements to the Process

- Developed guidance documents that support programs' applications. Guidance is directly linked to each area of the application.
- Established an electronic application process and improved tracking system for new applications.
- Developed a schedule for the review and approval of applications .

1,475 Applications Received

January 1, 2014 - October 28, 2014

- New program proposals or program changes for existing colleges/universities
- Proposals for branch campuses for existing colleges/universities (includes one or more program proposals)
- Proposals for extension centers for existing colleges/universities
- Applications for new colleges/universities (includes one or more program proposals)
- Applications for permission to operate in NYS (out of state institutions)
- Transfer of ownership of proprietary colleges
- Program discontinuances
- Others

Of those 1,475 applications – 1,100 have been completed – 786 were completed within 90 days of receipt

Factors affecting timeline for review and approval of applications in OCUE:

- Incomplete proposals from colleges
- Delays in responses from colleges to questions or requests for additional information needed to complete reviews
- Unique proposals that may require more in-depth review
- Time involved in charter amendment and master planning processes (canvassing other institutions)
- Objections/questions from other institutions

Other responsibilities for staff in OCUE:

- -Institutional Accreditation (24 institutions - 13 with terms that expire in 2014 or 2015)- Includes ongoing training for RAC members, Peer Site Visitors, Regents
- -College closures – protecting students' interests
- -SED and Regents workgroups (e.g. P-Tech, CAEP Partnerships)
- -Providing guidance to colleges (changes in regulations, policies)
- -Complaints about NYS colleges and universities
- -Conferral of degrees for provisionally chartered institutions
- -Transcript and degree verification for Taylor Business Institute (closed)
- -Data collection and reporting

Challenges for Colleges

- Economic factors (costs of college for students, cost of program and services at colleges)
- Faculty (full-time vs. part-time and adjunct, qualifications, timing for hiring)
- Competition for students has broadened (on line programs, additional instructional locations, out of state institutions)
- Addressing needs of non-traditional students
- Oversight of off campus instruction

Questions for Further Discussion

- How do we ensure quality while supporting innovation?
- How does the proliferation of on-line and competency-based education affect the application of Regents registration standards?
- Do program registration standards need to be updated to be relevant in today's higher education landscape?
- How do we determine the need for new institutions of higher education in NYS?