



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
University of St. Francis

DATE: June 11, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for the University of St. Francis?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its June 2012 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Regents permission to operate in New York State is required by Section 224 of the Education Law which prohibits out-of-state colleges and universities from transacting business in New York without Regents permission.

Background Information

The University of St. Francis seeks Regents permission to operate in New York State in order to place students from its Family Nurse Practitioner programs leading to either the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree or the post-master's Advanced Certificate in health agencies in New York for supervised clinical experiences. Section

6908 of the Education Law restricts the practice of nursing to licensed persons or students enrolled in educational programs that the State Education Department has registered. The University's Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Graduates of the Family Nurse Practitioner programs are eligible for certification as Family Nurse Practitioners through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The programs meet the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate, effective June 19, 2012, which authorizes the University of St. Francis' College of Nursing to use 2 agencies in New York for clinical education of students enrolled in its Family Nurse Practitioner programs leading to either the M.S.N. degree or post-master's Advanced Certificate.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until June 30, 2017.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATION

The request for permission to operate in New York State is being made for the program titled Family Nurse Practitioner.

The University of St. Francis, based in Joliet, Illinois, requests permission to place up to three Family Nurse Practitioner students each semester at physician or nurse practitioner offices located in Mineola and New York City, respectively. The Family Nurse Practitioner program leading to the M.S.N. degree requires completion of 47 semester hours of credit. The 17 credits assigned to clinical experiences require completion of 570 clock hours in primary care settings. The post-master's Advanced Certificate program requires completion of 28 semester hours of credit. Clinical experience requirements in the post-master's program are identical to those required in the master's degree program. Each clinical course is scheduled to be completed over a 15-week period, with the first practicum scheduled to begin shortly after approval of this request. Students will be enrolled in an online format that is delivered using Blackboard as the course management system. The University's Center for Instructional Delivery administers the Blackboard system and provides technical support to faculty and students using Blackboard.

Individuals available to serve as preceptors for the clinical placements include physicians and nurse practitioners with practices in primary care settings. The preceptors will be responsible for completing mid-term and end-of-semester clinical evaluations for each student. Full-time University of St. Francis College of Nursing faculty will be in contact with preceptors and students through e-mail, telephone and video conferencing conducted during the placements.

The University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools through 2018. The College of Nursing's programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education through 2020 and fully approved by the Illinois Board of Nursing.

Staff have determined that there would be no reduction in access to clinical experiences at the cooperating facilities if authorization is granted. Because of the limited nature of the University's authorization to operate in New York State, it should have no effect on New York institutions.

The Office of the Professions has determined that the University of St. Francis meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.