



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Douglas Lentivech 
SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University

DATE: March 23, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
Summary

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its April 2017 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Regents permission to operate in New York State (NYS) 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. Article 140 of the Education Law restricts the practice of midwifery to appropriately licensed persons or students enrolled in educational programs that the State Education Department has registered.

Background Information

The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University seeks to extend Regents permission to operate in New York State and program registration in order to place

midwifery students from its license-qualifying Midwifery and Nurse Midwifery programs leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree or an Advanced Certificate (Adv.Cert.) in health care agencies for supervised clinical experiences. The Midwifery program received its initial permission to operate in April 2001 and last renewal was in 2011; the Nurse Midwifery Program received its initial permission in 2011. The Institute's Midwifery programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). The next ACME review is scheduled for spring 2025. Philadelphia University has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 1955, with the next review scheduled for the 2025 - 2026 academic year. 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 April 4, 2017, which authorizes The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University to place 6 nurse-midwifery students and 12 midwifery students enrolled in its M.S. or post-master's Adv. Cert. programs in clinical agencies in New York.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until June 1, 2022.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATION

Midwifery education at the Institute began in 1996 with the establishment of the Institute of Midwifery, Women and Health. In April 2001, the Institute was granted approval by the Board of Regents to use clinical facilities in New York for its Advanced Certificate program. The programs are designed to prepare clinically competent nurse-midwives and midwives focuses on the management of primary care for women and newborns during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum periods; and family planning and gynecological care.

Admission to the Midwifery program requires that an applicant hold a Baccalaureate degree with a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA). Qualified applicants are given a conditional admission and must complete ten credits of courses in basic healthcare including skill competency before starting the program. An applicant for the Nurse-Midwifery program must be a registered nurse and hold a baccalaureate degree with a 3.0 GPA. Both the Midwifery and Nurse-Midwifery leading to the MS degree are 62 credits over six semesters with 48 credits of didactic courses and 14 credits of clinical courses that provide 700 hours of clinical experience. The Adv.Cert. in both programs is 50 credits over six semesters; 36 credits in didactic coursework and 14 credits of clinical courses (700 hours). Didactic course work is delivered online via Blackboard learning Management System using synchronous and asynchronous modalities. The program is designed to serve students in rural areas where access to university programs in midwifery are limited. Students must meet a residency requirement wherein they must attend sessions on the Philadelphia campus twice during their enrollment for clinical skill instruction and competency evaluation prior to clinical placements. Graduates of each program will be eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board.

The current request involves the annual placement of up to 18 midwifery students in New York who are enrolled in the Nurse-Midwifery or Midwifery programs. The School has agreements with ten hospitals, two Certified Nurse Midwives in private practice, and seven health centers. Only three of the hospital facilities are located in the metropolitan area. The others are located in the Hudson Valley, Capital, Northern, and Western Regions. The seven health care centers are throughout the state but predominantly in the Western and Capital Regions. This pattern of clinical placements is consistent with the mission of the School to reach underserved areas. The School refers NY residents living in the greater metropolitan area to similar programs offered by SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Downstate Medical University, New York University and Columbia University.

Each nurse-midwifery student is precepted by a certified midwife on staff at the participating agency. Preceptors are responsible for completing a competency-based written evaluation for each student. Midwifery Institute faculty members follow a cohort of students through the clinical portion of their education and interact via telephone conferencing every two to four weeks with each clinical preceptor and student to assess student progress and student-preceptor interaction. Each faculty member has a minimum of a master's degree and is a Certified Nurse Midwife.

The staff of Office of the Professions has determined that The Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and have determined that there would be no reduction in access to clinical resources for NYS institutions if authorization is granted for the nurse-midwifery and midwifery programs.