





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: The State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn (SUNY Downstate Medical Center), M.S. Program in Applied Behavior Analysis

DATE: March 28, 2019

AUTHORIZATIONS: 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of the State University of New York which authorizes SUNY Downstate Medical Center to offer the M.S. program in Applied Behavior Analysis?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Procedural History

Master plan amendment is required because this would be the University's first master's level program in the discipline of social sciences.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board for consideration at its April 2019 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Background Information

SUNY Downstate Medical Center requested to register an M.S. program in Applied Behavior Analysis. The purpose of the program is to prepare qualified applied

behavior analysts to provide services to children and adults with a diagnosis of autism. The primary goal of the program is to prepare practitioners who will be able to improve access to needed care for a variety of clients with a diagnosis of autism and to improve access to careers in behavior analysis for historically underserved students with diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The M.S. program will be housed in the College of Health Related Professions. It offers two tracks: a 36-credit option that includes a comprehensive examination; and a 42-credit option which includes completing a thesis project. The latter track is intended for students who want to pursue further research/academic study. The program can be completed in three semesters. Didactic instruction consists of coursework in behavioral principles and concepts; measurement, experimental design, and interpretation of data; diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of function-based behavioral disorders; ethics; record keeping; behavior change; and research. The program includes 150 hours of supervised practicum.

Admission requirements for the M.S. program includes completion of a B.A. or B.S. degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better; two to three letters of recommendation; and a personal interview. The program will target recruitment to colleges with strong representation of underrepresented students. It is anticipated that diversity of the student population in the proposed program will mirror that of the College of Health Related Professions: approximately 51 percent white, 20 percent African American, 16 percent Asian, and 13 percent Latino students. The program will support these students by offering lower tuition than private institutions and by developing paid internships. The estimated enrollment is 10 full-time and 5 part-time students in the first year and 40 full-time and 25 part-time students by year five.

The College of Health Related Professions has a comprehensive library, student support services, and a well-developed system of committees and policies that support the admissions and academic standing and overall conduct of the academic programs. The College has well-maintained computer labs and classroom environments. Before the program begins, the College plans to hire one chair person, one clinical coordinator, and one program administrator. During the first two academic years, the program will hire two additional faculty, and during the fourth academic year, the program will hire one additional faculty. In addition to holding a doctoral degree in the appropriate field, the Chairperson, the clinical coordinator, and at least two faculty members will be both BCBA and LBA credentialed. The remaining faculty will be BCBA credentialed with LBA preferred. In addition, the budget allows for \$30,000 to hire adjuncts for specialty topic areas.

Canvass Results: A canvass was conducted of all institutions in the New York City region of New York State and the institutions offering programs leading to licensure as a licensed behavior analyst. We received no objection.

Department Review: The Department has determined that the proposed program meets 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 amendment to the master plan of the State University of New York authorizing SUNY Downstate Medical Center to offer its first master's level program in the social sciences disciplinary area, an M.S. program in Applied Behavior Analysis. If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will transmit it to the Governor with a recommendation for favorable action. Following gubernatorial approval, the program will be registered.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Governor approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the M.S. program in Applied Behavior Analysis at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.