



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Marymount Manhattan College – Master Plan Amendment for Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Speech-Language Pathology

DATE: July 6, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Marymount Manhattan College to establish a proposed Speech-Language Pathology program leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first program at the master's level.

Background Information

Marymount Manhattan College is seeking approval of an amendment to its master plan to offer an M.S. degree program in Speech-Language Pathology. The College currently offers a B.A. program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. This will be the College's first graduate-level program. The proposed 56-credit curriculum consists of 45 credits of didactic coursework and 11 credits in clinical education, including a minimum of 400 hours of clinical experience. The proposed program is designed to be in alignment with American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) accreditation standards.

The purpose of the program is to prepare entry-level professionals who will provide high quality services to individuals with communication disorders and swallowing disorders across the lifespan. This is in alignment with the mission of the College: fostering student achievement and growth by providing, among other academic experiences, career development opportunities for the students; educating students whose awareness of social, political, cultural and ethical issues will lead them to work for the improvement of society; and allowing the College to advance its efforts in career development and contribute to the improvement of society.

Admission requirements for the master's program in speech language pathology will include: 1) official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended; 2) three letters of recommendation; 3) personal statement; 4) resume; 5) completion of the GRE; and 6) personal Interview. Applicants will be required to have completed the following prerequisites (3 credits each): 1) introduction to communication disorders; 2) introduction to linguistics; 3) phonetics; 4) language development; 5) speech and hearing science; 6) anatomy and physiology of the speech, language, and hearing mechanism; 7) audiology; 8) math; 9) statistics; 10) biological sciences; and 11) physical sciences. In addition, they will be required to have completed six credits in the behavioral and/or social sciences and 25 hours of observation of evaluation and treatment in speech-language pathology and audiology across ages and populations.

The master's program will be served by the Ruth Smadbeck Communication and Learning Center, which has three individual treatment rooms, one of which is a fully dedicated pediatric treatment room. There is an audiology suite that also houses the speech science research lab, where students, faculty, and clinicians are able to conduct voice and speech analyses and voice therapy. A second research lab is used by faculty and students engaged in the study of typical and atypical language processes. There are three full-time faculty members and one full-time clinic director who teach in the Speech-Language Pathology program. Each of the current faculty members has a PhD and has expertise that covers the existing and most of the proposed curriculum. The College plans to hire an additional full-time faculty member who will join the faculty in fall 2018 and an additional part-time faculty, an expert in augmentative and alternative communication, in fall 2019.

After review of the proposal, the Department determined that the program meets all standards for registration. A canvass of the institutions of the New York City region as well as of all institutions in the state offering licensure qualifying Speech-Language Pathology programs was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. No objections were received.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Marymount Manhattan College to authorize the College to offer the M.S. Speech-Language Pathology program. This amendment will be effective until July 18, 2018, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the MS program in Speech-Language Pathology.