



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Professional Practice Committee
FROM: Valerie Grey
SUBJECT: Update on the Professions
DATE: May 2, 2011
AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Discussion

This item will present a general update on the professions licensed by the State Education Department.

Reasons for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item is submitted for information and discussion at the May 2011 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee.

Procedural History

The Office of the Professions routinely briefs the Professional Practice Committee with respect to the status of the professions and their professional boards in an effort to present the current state of the regulated professions.

Background

The Board of Regents oversees the practice of 48 professions. Those professions broadly include areas involving health, design and finance. In the past 20 years, the number of professions under the supervision of the Board of Regents has nearly doubled. Additionally, the services provided in many of the professions have been expanded or modified within that same time frame.

In the period since the last time the Office of the Professions briefed the Professional Practice Committee, the number of licensed professionals has grown to over 800,000. However, the trends in each individual profession vary. The number of licensees in some professions has remained stable, while there have been strong increases in the number of licensees in other professions.

The individual professions also have seen changes in the requirements for licensing. Educational programs leading to licensure in many of the licensed professions have added course content, and an increasing number of professions also have continuing education requirements. Those continuing education requirements also vary from profession to profession and include everything from formal coursework and clinical instruction to authoring peer-reviewed articles.

In addition to presenting the demographics relating to licensing and registration of the professions, it is also important to note some of the key developments in the professions. Many professions have had adjustments made to their scopes of practice, and others have had other changes in their licensing articles. Future meetings of the Professional Practice Committee will include a series of specific discussions related to each board office. During those presentations, we will provide a detailed look at the challenges and accomplishments of each of the individual professions.