



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: Extension of Provisional Degree-Granting Authority: New York Film Academy

DATE: November 30, 2023

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents extend the provisional degree-granting authority of New York Film Academy?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The issue will come before the Full Board for action at its December 2023 meeting.

Procedural History

In 2018, the Board of Regents provisionally authorized New York Film Academy as a new degree-granting institution. The five-year provisional term for the institution will end on December 31, 2023. The institution has applied for permanent degree-granting authority.

Pursuant to Section 3.58(d)(3) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Department recommends an extension of the provisional status.

Background Information

New York Film Academy (NYFA) operates campuses in New York, New York; Los Angeles, California; and Miami Beach, Florida, all of which are authorized to grant degrees in their respective states. In addition to credit-bearing programs, NYFA offers short-term non-degree programs throughout the year at all three campuses, as well as

summer programs and youth camps in the United States and abroad. As a private business corporation, NYFA has a single governing board for the three campuses and generates financial statements that aggregate financial activity from all of its campuses.

NYFA started offering the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Filmmaking and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting for Film programs at its New York campus in Fall 2019. Enrollment was initially suppressed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While NYFA's New York campus recovered in 2021, the overall organization suffered a significant net decrease, prompting its current accrediting agency, WASC Senior College and University Commission, to task NYFA in July 2023 to strengthen its financial position and accelerate efforts to expand enrollment.

During its provisional term, NYFA has added a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Entertainment Media, as well as the following credit-bearing certificates:

- One-year Photography
- One-year Broadcast Journalism
- One-year Filmmaking
- One-year Documentary Filmmaking
- One-year Cinematography
- One-year Producing
- One-year Acting for Film
- One-year Musical Theatre
- One-year Screenwriting
- Two-year Photography
- Two-year Filmmaking
- Two-year Acting for Film
- Two-year Musical Theatre

In the same period, NYFA has continued to offer its non-credit/clock-hour certificate programs. The institution continues to propose new programs and make adjustments to current programs. NYFA also has plans to seek a master plan amendment to offer two Master of Fine Arts programs.

The Department believes an extension of its provisional authorization will provide NYFA with additional time to improve its financial health as well as to continue to convert programs from clock hours to credit, stabilize course offerings and credit allocations, and seek a master plan amendment to offer Master of Fine Arts programs.

The Department therefore recommends extending the provisional authorization of New York Film Academy for another five-year term. The granting of such a term does not preclude an institution from reapplying before the term ends and thus provides the institution with the flexibility to apply when its leadership believes it to be in the best position to do so.

Related Regents Items

December 2018: [Application for Authority to Operate As a For-Profit Degree Granting Institution in New York State: New York Film Academy – Provisional Authority to Confer Degrees](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1218brca4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1218brca4.pdf>)

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents extend New York Film Academy's provisional authorization to confer the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree through December 31, 2028.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents extends New York Film Academy's provisional authorization to confer the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree through December 31, 2028, the institution must apply to the Department for permanent authority to confer degrees at least twelve months prior to the expiration of the provisional term (December 2027).