





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

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 
SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Touro College—Valhalla Campus, Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) program in Dentistry
DATE: April 11, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Touro College—Valhalla Campus to offer a D.D.S. program in Dentistry?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its April 2016 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 in the health professions discipline at the doctoral level at its branch campus in Valhalla.

Background Information

Touro College—Valhalla Campus is seeking approval of an amendment to its master plan to offer a D.D.S. program in Dentistry. The proposed 221-credit D.D.S. program will span four academic years. The curriculum consists of four major curricular themes: Biomedical Sciences (49.5 credits), Pre-Clinical Dentistry Foundation (50.5

credits), Behavioral Science and Practice Management (15 credits), and Clinical Practice (106 credits). The program has been granted initial accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Admission to the D.D.S. program requires a minimum bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the U.S. or Canada. The bachelor's study shall include pre-dental science courses essential for dental school and broad exposure to liberal arts. The program requires 31 credits pre-requisite courses in science (biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and biochemistry) and 6-credit pre-requisite courses in English. To assess academic competency, all applicants are required to take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). To be considered for admission, scores on the Academic Average and Perceptual Ability sections of the DAT must be 16 or higher. In addition, to be eligible for program admission, applicants must have achieved a minimum science GPA of 2.7 and an overall GPA of 2.7 on a scale of 4.0 in the undergraduate, graduate, or professional study. Consistent with a holistic approach to admissions, in addition to meeting the degree requirement and to demonstrate academic competency, applicants will need to demonstrate evidence of personal characteristics expected of a dental professional: altruism, compassion, honesty, integrity, emotional maturity, and a commitment to provide care for people who are disadvantaged and underserved.

Under an inter-institutional agreement, the Dentistry program will take full advantage of the partnership with existing New York Medical College (NYMC) faculty and resources. The D.D.S. program will be housed in a 248,000 square foot building located at 19 Skyline Drive that NYMC acquired in 2013. Two of the five floors of the Skyline building are being renovated to accommodate the D.D.S. program. Additionally, a brand new dental simulation lab, classrooms and support facilities will be built on the fourth floor of the building for both instruction and administration.

Students of the Dentistry program will have direct access to the resources and support services of both Touro College and NYMC. The D.D.S. program will share faculty and administrative resources with NYMC. Basic and behavioral science courses will largely be taught by NYMC faculty members, who have joint appointment with Touro College. In addition to the 10 full-time faculty members affiliated with NYMC, the College has 10 full-time faculty and 2 part-time faculty directing study in the D.D.S. program and has a plan to hire 24 full-time and 30 part-time faculty in dentistry to direct study in pre-clinic lab and clinical practice.

After review of the proposal, the Department determined that the program meets all standards for registration. In addition, as part of the review process, a peer review team conducted a site visit to Touro College—Valhalla Campus. Following the peer review site visit, a canvass of the institutions of the Hudson Valley Region and the institutions offering D.D.S. programs was conducted to determine the potential impact on current programs and resources. Of those canvassed, there were no objections to this proposal.

Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Touro College—Valhalla Campus to authorize the College to offer the D.D.S. program. This amendment will be effective until April 19, 2017, 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 D.D.S. program in Dentistry.