



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: Sarah Benson *Sarah D. Benson*
SUBJECT: College of Mount Saint Vincent – Master Plan
Amendment for Master of Science (M.S.) degree program
in Art Therapy/Counseling
DATE: March 26, 2020
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharon L. Takoe*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for the College of Mount Saint Vincent to establish a proposed Art Therapy/Counseling program leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The issue will come before the Full Board for action at its April 2020 meeting.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first program at the master's level in the fine arts disciplinary area.

Background Information

In May 2019, the Department approved the request for the College of Mount Saint Vincent to teach out students enrolled in the M.S. Art Therapy/Counseling program at a closed New York institution. The master plan amendment process was waived for the teach-out program that will expire on May 31, 2021.

In August 2019, the College submitted a proposal to offer the M.S. Therapy/Counseling program to new students. Currently the College offers undergraduate programs in psychology and in studio arts. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for a career as a licensed creative arts therapist. The emphasis of the program is on the integration of depth-psychology theory and the aesthetic experience. The underlying goal of the program is to stimulate the development of the student as both artist and therapist. The purpose and goals of the program are aligned with the mission of the College – service to others through healthcare.

The proposed program requires 60 credits completed over two years of full-time study, including winter and summer sessions. The curriculum was designed to meet New York State creative arts therapy licensure requirements and includes 720 clock hours of practicum and internship experience. The 60-credit curriculum consists of 45 credits in required coursework, 9 credits in art therapy electives, and 6 credits in studio electives. The curriculum is aligned with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs accreditation (CAAHEP) standards and the program will seek CAAHEP accreditation.

Admission criteria for the graduate program are as follows: prerequisites – 12 credits in psychology, including a course in abnormal psychology and a course in developmental psychology, 18 credits in a range of studio art courses, and paid or volunteer experience with people with special needs. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (B) is required. In addition, prospective students complete an application, submit a goals statement, a 10-piece portfolio, a writing sample (preferably a research paper), and are interviewed by the program director.

The student body will primarily be students who are enrolled in, or graduates of, undergraduate Psychology or Fine Arts programs. Although the College will primarily draw students who graduate from institutions within the Greater New York City area, as well as Westchester County, lower Rockland County, Connecticut and New Jersey, students will also be drawn from national and international populations. The projected enrollment for the program is expected to be 15 new full-time equivalents per year for the first five years. It is anticipated that the diversity of the student population of the proposed program will be similar to that of the College. Currently, among the 1,937 students at the college, 70 percent are female. Enrollment by ethnicity is as follows: 25 percent White, Non-Hispanic; 16 percent African American; 43 percent Hispanic; and 9 percent Asian/Pacific Islander.

Students will utilize the College's existing classrooms and facilities. Classes will be offered in the late afternoon and evening to avoid scheduling conflicts with undergraduate programs. The College's library is expanding its holdings to include additional counseling and art therapy related resources. In addition to the existing art studios, the College has built a new stone carving sculpture studio for the program.

The program faculty will include two full-time faculty members, one of whom is the program director. Adjunct faculty teach core and specialization courses, based on their areas of expertise and experiences in the field. The College has plans to hire a third full-time faculty by year four of the program, based on expected enrollment growth.

Staff members from the Department reviewed the application materials. In addition, as part of the review process, a peer review site visit was conducted on March 4-5, 2020. Based upon the review, it is determined that the proposed M.S. program in Art Therapy/Counseling meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

To determine potential impact on current programs and resources, a canvass of the institutions of New York City as well as of all institutions in the state offering programs leading to licensure as a Creative Arts Therapist was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. No objections were received.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of the College of Mount Saint Vincent to authorize the College to offer the M.S. Art Therapy/Counseling program. This amendment will be effective until April 2021, 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 M.S. program in Art Therapy/Counseling at the College of Mount Saint Vincent.