



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*

**SUBJECT:** Permission to Operate in New York State: Drew University

**DATE:** April 24, 2025

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *William P. Murphy*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents renew Drew University's permission to offer courses applicable to its undergraduate degree programs in New York City for another five-year term?

**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 May 2025 meeting.

**Procedural History**

Pursuant to Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, Drew University submitted an application seeking renewal of its permission to offer in-person courses as part of the nycTREC program, in which Drew University students may take courses applicable to their undergraduate degree programs in New York City. The institution was previously granted permission to operate at the May 2020 Board of Regents meeting.

**Background Information**

Drew University (Drew) is a private institution located in Madison, New Jersey, about an hour away from New York City. It is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Drew's nycTREC program is managed by the institution's Center for Global Education and provides immersive learning experiences for undergraduate students.

Drew's nycTREC program includes seven options that are embedded within degree programs. Courses are taught by full-time Drew faculty and cover the following topics: the United Nations, Contemporary Art, Wall Street, Communications and Media, Social Impact, Theatre, and Museums and Cultural Management. Students commute to New York City from the Drew University campus one or two times per week where they engage in guest lectures, site visits, and place-based learning experiences that align with the course topic. Undergraduate students receive four or eight credits that apply to their degree completion, including one of two required "Immersive Experiences" that all Drew University students must complete in order to graduate.

Since the initial approval in 2020, Drew has made several minor changes to the program, including renaming the Social Entrepreneurship topic to Social Impact to best reflect the course content and recruit students from a more expansive representation of academic majors. Moving forward, the Center for Global Education and nycTREC faculty will be implementing a standardized assessment of immersive experience courses across the institution that will assess four standard learning objectives that may inform future changes to the nycTREC program.

Drew reports that during the initial term of approval, 499 students enrolled in nycTREC courses, with 323 of these students completing their degree programs to date. Drew projects enrolling over 100 students per academic year in the nycTREC program during the upcoming PTO term.

In March 2022, Drew was notified by the United States Department of Education (USDE) that the institution was placed on Heightened Cash Monitoring Level 1 (HCM1) due to its financial responsibility composite score. Drew elected to continue participating in Title IV Federal Student Aid programs by depositing funds into a cash escrow account established by USDE. Drew continues to be on HCM1, with the most recent communication from USDE in September 2024. Drew remains in good standing with its institutional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

### **Related Regents Items**

[May 2020: Permission to Operate – Drew University](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/520brca7.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/520brca7.pdf>)

### **Recommendation**

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents renew Drew University's permission to offer courses applicable to its undergraduate degree programs in New York City. This approval will be effective for a five-year period beginning on May 31, 2025, and ending on May 30, 2030.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If Drew University seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than May 31, 2029.