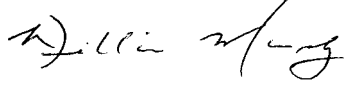





**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** William P. Murphy   
**SUBJECT:** Permission to Operate: Carnegie Mellon University  
**DATE:** May 27, 2021  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents renew Carnegie Mellon University's permission to operate in New York State to offer the Master of Science in Computational Finance program in New York City?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the Full Board at its June 2021 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

#### **Procedural History**

Pursuant to section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, Carnegie Mellon University (Carnegie Mellon) submitted an application seeking permission to continue to offer the Master of Science in Computational Finance (MS Computational Finance) degree in New York City. The institution was originally granted permission to operate the MS Computational Finance degree program in 1995, and permission was last renewed in 2016 for a five-year term. The institution has discontinued four Integrated Media programs previously approved to be offered at the Steiner Studio at Brooklyn Navy Yard.

## **Background Information**

Carnegie Mellon, a research university accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, is based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has campuses in Silicon Valley, Africa, Qatar, Australia, and elsewhere. Its student body includes more than 14,000 students from over 100 countries.

The New York City-based MS Computational Finance program serves students aspiring to work in New York's finance sector by delivering a balance of theory and practice that is tailored to meet the needs of the quantitative financial services industry.

Full-time, the MS Computational Finance program is a 17-month, three-semester course of study, with a summer internship. Each semester consists of two seven-week "mini-semesters." The academic program comprises 28 courses, including five electives and a capstone project, and all courses are offered in New York. Since their last permission to operate renewal, the University adjusted the curriculum to increase focus on machine learning and added two business communication courses.

Fifteen full-time faculty and four adjunct faculty instruct students in Pittsburgh and Manhattan, with three of the adjunct faculty based in New York City. The primary mode of instruction at the New York facility is live, interactive video. Pittsburgh-based faculty teach in Manhattan twice every seven weeks and, during these visits, host office hours and work with students on any questions they may have. The faculty based in New York teach all or most of their classes from the New York facility.

The 55 Broad Street campus was fully renovated in 2017. It has two classrooms, several offices and conference rooms, a student lounge, a recreation room, and space for hosting events. The New York program is staffed by a director, who serves as the academic advisor for New York students and handles day-to-day operations, one technician who operates and maintains the distance-education equipment, two members of the University's Career Counseling Center, one development staff member, and two administrative coordinators.

Over the permission to operate term, the New York City MS Computational Finance program enrolled 259 new students. Historically, over 95 percent of students in this program complete their degrees, and the University states that at least 90 percent of recent MS Computational Finance alumni were employed by three months after graduation. If approved, Carnegie Mellon projects enrollment of 50 new students per year over the course of the next permission to operate term.

## **Related Regents Items**

August 2006: [Carnegie Mellon University, M.S., Computational Finance: Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2006Meetings/September2006/0906heppca4.htm)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2006Meetings/September2006/0906heppca4.htm>)

September 2011: [Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State: Carnegie Mellon University](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2011Meetings/September2011/911brca8.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2011Meetings/September2011/911brca8.pdf>)

September 2015: [Permission to Operate: Carnegie Mellon University](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Sep%202015/915brca1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Sep%202015/915brca1.pdf>)

June 2016: [Permission to Operate: Carnegie Mellon University](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/616brca5.pdf)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/616brca5.pdf>)

### **Recommendation**

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents grant Carnegie Mellon University renewal of permission to offer the Master of Science in Computational Finance degree program in New York City. This permission will be effective June 15, 2021 and end on June 30, 2026.

### **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 Carnegie Mellon University seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must apply to the Department no later than June 30, 2025.