



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: William P. Murphy *William Murphy*
SUBJECT: Conferral of Degrees: City Seminary of New York Graduate Center
DATE: July 6, 2023
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Bellamy*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents confer degrees upon students successfully completing programs at the City Seminary of New York Graduate Center?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and regulation.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Section 208 of the Education Law gives the Regents the authority to make awards in certain circumstances. By statute and regulation, institutions of higher education that have provisional charters do not have the authority to award degrees. Until such time as a charter is made absolute, the Board of Regents awards degrees on behalf of provisionally chartered institutions. In the case of closed institutions of higher education, in order to hold students harmless, the Board of Regents awards degrees to eligible students who complete the requirements for their registered degree programs at other institutions, for specified periods of time.

City Seminary of New York Graduate Center

City Seminary of New York Graduate Center, located at 302 West 119th Street, New York, New York, was granted a provisional charter by the Board of Regents on July 17, 2017. City Seminary of New York Graduate Center offers the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Ministry in the Global City.

The conferral process consists of the following steps:

For provisionally chartered institutions:

- The institution sends the Department a request for conferral of degrees to students who have completed their registered programs.
- The Department reviews the relevant documentation provided by the institution to assure its accuracy. (This step may involve multiple communications with an institution depending upon the accuracy and completeness of the documentation provided.)
- The Department prepares a degree conferral item for Regents action that lists all candidates and the degrees earned.
- After the Regents have voted to confer the degrees, Department staff notify the institution of the Regents action. The institution prepares diplomas with the candidates' names and degrees completed, along with the signatures of appropriate officers at the institution.
- Institution-signed diplomas are sent to the Department for the imprinting of the signatures of the Chancellor of the Board of Regents and the President of the University of New York (USNY) (Commissioner of Education) and the affixing of the official Board of Regents seal to each diploma.
- Once the diplomas have the signatures of the Chancellor and the President of USNY and the official Regents seal, the diplomas are mailed back to the institution, to be provided to the students.

For closed institutions:

- The student submits to the Department official transcripts from the closed institution and any other institution at which the student earned credit toward the degree.
- The Department reviews the transcripts and compares the completed courses to the requirements of the registered program at the closed institution.
- Upon a determination that the student has completed the program requirements, the Department prepares a degree conferral item for Regents action that lists all candidates and the degrees earned.

- After the Regents have voted to confer the degrees, the Department prepares the diplomas with the candidates' names and degree awards, the diplomas are signed by the Chancellor and the President of USNY, and the official Regents seal is affixed.
- The completed diplomas are sent to the students by the Department.

Related Regents Items

July 2020: [Conferral of Degrees: Glasgow Caledonian New York College and City Seminary of New York Graduate Center](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/720brca4revised.pdf)

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Recommendation

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents confer upon the following individuals, who have completed the requirements for registered degree programs at the City Seminary of New York Graduate Center, the respective degree as listed below.

City Seminary of New York Graduate Center

The following students have completed the requirements for the Master of Arts (M.A.) award:

Abiola Babalola
Susan Sanborn Carpenter
Danielle Christi Cummings
Sasha Thomas Hallock
Jerin Joe James
Juliya Joseph
Deirdre Marie McIntosh-Brown
Oluremi Joseph Omolola
Oluwatoyin Maria Omolola
Princy Prasad
Samuel Thomas

Timetable for Implementation

Once the Board of Regents approves this item, the Department will notify the institution to prepare diplomas and send them to the Department for signatures.