



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

TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: David H. Hamilton *David H. Hamilton*

SUBJECT: Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

DATE: July 3, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Betty M.*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents renew permission to operate for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) to offer its D.O. program in Osteopathic Medicine in Elmira, New York?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its July 2025 meeting for final action.

Procedural History

Section 224 of the Education Law and Section 3.56 of Regents Rules prohibit out-of-state colleges and universities from transacting business in New York without prior Board of Regents permission. Permission is granted for a five-year period, after which the institution must apply for renewal.

Background Information

LECOM is a private, nonprofit institution under the LECOM Health System. Its main campus is in Erie, Pennsylvania. The College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The D.O. program in Osteopathic Medicine was established in 1993 at the main campus and is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

At its July 2019 meeting, the Board of Regents granted LECOM permission to operate to offer its D.O. program in Elmira, New York, with an expiration date of July 16, 2020; upon receiving evidence of COCA final approval and program continuous compliance with program registration standards, the approval was extended until July 16, 2025. The D.O. program offered at the Elmira location received initial COCA accreditation in 2020. The most recent COCA decision is accreditation for 10 years, until 2034.

LECOM submitted a permission to operate renewal application in April 2025. The anticipated annual new enrollment for the next five years is a maximum of 120 students. Upon review of the renewal application, staff members determined that the educational quality and resources of the D.O. program are equivalent to those set forth in Part 52 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Related Items

[July 2019: Permission to Operate in New York State: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/719brca11.pdf) (<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/719brca11.pdf>)

Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents grant renewal of permission to operate for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) to offer its D.O. program in Osteopathic Medicine in Elmira, New York. This permission to operate will be effective until July 16, 2030.

Timetable for Implementation

Once the Board of Regents approves this, the Department will send notification letter to LECOM.