



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: Valerie Grey

SUBJECT: Hunter College of The City University of New York:
Authorization to Award the Doctor of Nursing Practice
(D.N.P.) Degree

DATE: May 2, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York Board of Trustees to confer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree on duly qualified students successfully completing registered programs at Hunter College of The City University of New York?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its May 2011 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

On February 28, 2011, The City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the program in Nursing Practice leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree to be offered at Hunter College be approved, effective March 1, 2011, subject to financial ability.

On March 9, 2011, the Department received from Hunter College of The City University of New York's proposal requesting registration of four programs leading to the D.N.P. degree.

Background Information

Paragraph (8) of Section 6206 of the Education Law authorizes the CUNY trustees to:

"...grant the certificates, diplomas and degrees which were announced in the bulletins of the existing public institutions of higher learning published for the term beginning immediately prior to April sixteenth, nineteen hundred twenty-six, and also such other degrees and honors as the Regents thereafter specifically authorized or may hereafter authorize it to grant."

Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents Hunter College's first use of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree title. Board of Regents approval of this authorization will allow the registration of acceptable programs leading to the D.N.P. degree.

The D.N.P. offers an alternative to research-oriented doctoral programs, such as the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and the Doctor of Nursing Science (D.N.S.). Nurses with either a bachelor's or master's degree will have curricular pathways to the doctoral level. The national organization that represents baccalaureate and higher degree programs in nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, is moving toward a requirement that all programs to prepare advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists) be at the doctoral level and that the degree to be awarded is the D.N.P. The School of Nursing seeks to offer the D.N.P. degree in keeping with national trends and requirements.

Upon approval, Hunter College would be the first CUNY institution authorized to confer the D.N.P. degree. There are three State University of New York institutions (Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook) that offer the D.N.P. degree. New York State also has six private institutions authorized to award the D.N.P. degree: Columbia University, Daemen College, New York University, Pace University, St. John Fisher College and the University of Rochester. At this time, there are 138 schools throughout the nation that offer D.N.P. programs, with approximately 100 more schools working to develop such programs.

The proposed D.N.P. degree programs are consistent with Hunter College's mission and reputation as an institution with considerable experience and expertise gained from many years of offering a range of graduate degrees for advanced practice nurses. The Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing currently offers programs of study leading to the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Nursing. Additionally, post-master's Advanced Certificate programs are available to prepare nurse practitioners and nurse educators. Also, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, in conjunction with the College of Staten Island and Lehman College, is a participant in the research-oriented Doctor of Nursing Science degree program offered by The City University of New York's Graduate Center.

The D.N.P. curriculum is consistent with the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and Hunter College will seek CCNE accreditation after the first cohort graduates.

Hunter College is proposing a total of four D.N.P. programs. These programs will be in the areas of adult/gerontological health, community/public health, family health, and psychiatric/mental health. Except for the community/public health specialty area, the programs will lead to eligibility for nurse practitioner certification. The programs are scheduled to begin in fall 2011 with a projected enrollment of 24 students. In the second year of operation, enrollment is expected to grow to 55 students. By the fifth year, total enrollment is projected to be about 170 students across the 4 specialty areas of practice. Annual attrition is estimated at approximately five percent.

The proposed offerings are post-baccalaureate programs that will require completion of 90 credits and 1,000 hours of clinical practice. Coursework is divided into 48 credits of core courses, 31 credits of specialty courses, 8 credits of capstone courses and 3 credits in an elective or cognate area. The post-baccalaureate programs are designed to be completed in four years of full-time study. Clinical experiences will be arranged with preceptors who are nurse practitioners, physicians, or clinical nurse specialists in the various clinical practice areas. The School of Nursing maintains agreements with over 170 clinical agencies in metropolitan New York and New Jersey. In addition to clinical specialization, practica, and role courses, the remaining coursework covers content in the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, ethics, evidence-based practice, genetics, health assessment, health policy, health promotion, health systems, informatics, leadership, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, research, and theoretical foundations.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York Board of Trustees to confer the D.N.P. degree on duly qualified students successfully completing registered D.N.P. programs at Hunter College of The City University of New York effective May 17, 2011.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board authorizes the Trustees to confer the D.N.P. degree at Hunter College of The City University of New York, the Department will proceed to register the proposed D.N.P. programs in Nursing and Hunter College will proceed to recruit and enroll students in the programs.