

**NH Department of Education
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education
Higher Education Commission**

October 12, 2021: Commission Meeting

Director's Report

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

No attendance at out-of-state meetings.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

The Division of Educator Support and Higher Education has relocated to 25 Hall Street, Granite State College due to ongoing abatement of Londergan Hall. We anticipate this to period of relocation for up to one-year.

The Division continues to work on the implementation of SB 134 which, among other items, requires the NH DOE to perform criminal record checks on professional educator preparation program students. This work is being coordinated by the Bureau of Educator Credentialing and the Bureau of Educator Preparation. Stakeholder meetings are in process and administrative rules will be presented to the State Board of Education in November. We have included the statute and an early draft in the meeting materials.

On September 13th, 2021 the Division conducted a joint collaborative degree and program review at Saint Anselm College that aligned both the Bureau of Educator Preparation (PEPP) reviewers with the Higher Education Commission reviewers. This joint review expedited the process for the College reducing administrative work for the Division. By all accounts this was a successful test and we will replicate whenever possible moving forward. We have a meeting in October with the Director of the Office of Professional Licensure to discuss how we can better coordinate with the Board of Nursing on future visits.

We will continue to execute on our vision of lowering administrative overhead and reducing redundancy wherever possible.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

New England College: An on-site visit was conducted on October 1, 2021 by a HEC team to evaluate a proposed a Clinical, Cooperative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The evaluation visit was successful, and a recommendation on the proposed program is before this meeting of the Commission.

Saint Anselm College: An on-site visit was conducted on September 13, 2021 by a joint HEC/CTE team to evaluate a proposed M.Ed. in Special Education with Special Education licensure. The evaluation visit was successful, and the proposed program is before this meeting of the Commission.

The College continues to consider a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT).

Saint Joseph Hospital School of Nursing: The Saint Joseph School of Nursing (SJSN) was authorized by the Director to proceed with a medical assistant certificate training program that is embedded in their already approved Associate in Science degree in Medical Assisting. This is a 440 hour, 12-week professional training program blending training and clinical and administrative responsibilities, with the first 8 weeks in the classroom and the last 4 weeks of internship in a medical office. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the National Health Career Association (NHA) Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) national examination.

SJSN has had challenges in recruiting students for its Associate degree program. The program is scheduled to begin in January 2022 with a cohort of 12 students. A required annual report to the Commission on December 31, 2022 is included with the approval.

The Higher Education Commission, at its October 20th, 2020 meeting, approved the continuance of degree-granting authority to the SJSN until December 31, 2025 to align with approvals from the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges ACCSC), and the New Hampshire Board of Nursing (NH-BON).

Signum University: The University has been granted degree granting authority by the General Court. The legislation, HB 513, was signed into law by Governor Sununu on July 29, 2021. An accreditation report was filed with the Distance Education Accreditation Commission (DEAC) in late August with an anticipated on-site visit to occur in the spring of 2022. Signum is also exploring alternative ways in which it can fulfill the indemnification requirements of the Commission.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU): The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) approved a compliance report submitted in November, 2020 regarding certain elements in its baccalaureate and master's degrees in Nursing.

New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Activity:

Colby Sawyer College: The College submitted a Substantive Change Implementation Update Report to NECHE on September 7, 2021. The report addressed good progress on the Associate in Science in Health Sciences, the "4+1" MBA program, the MSN in Nursing Education and the MSN in Nurse Management & Executive Leadership. The report also documented progress on the College's partnership with the Dartmouth Hitchcock Health System. NECHE will consider the report at its fall 2021 meeting.

The College is developing a Master's in Social Work (MSW) for future consideration by the Commission.

Hellenic American University: The University is scheduled to submit a progress report on November 1, 2021 regarding marketing, enrollment, finances and student services for its programs in Nashua, NH. Its Fifth Year Interim Report on the University is to be filed in August 2022.

Magdalen College: Director Appleby and Dr. Gustafson visited Magdalen College on July 20, 2021 to meet the new president, Dr. Ryan Messmore, tour the campus, and to discuss the outlook for the 2021-2022 academic year. The College submitted a Show Cause report to NECHE on September 1, 2021 addressing concerns under the Standards for Planning & Evaluation, Organization & Governance, and Institutional Resources. President Messmore met with the NECHE Commission in late September.

New England College (NEC): New England College (NEC) had a virtual on-site NECHE visit on October 29-30, 2020 to evaluate its proposal for a Substantive Change to extend its accreditation to (1) the merger of the New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA) into NEC as the Institute of Art and Design at New England College, (2) The BFA degree, and (3) the instructional sites of Eastfield, Richland, and Brookhaven of Dallas (TX) College. NEC offers hybrid degree completion programs in RN to BSN, BS in Cybersecurity, and BS in Forensic Accounting at these sites.

As noted in earlier reports, the on-site visits resulted in positive recommendations for all three requests. NECHE considered the evaluation report at its meeting on March, 4-5, 2021, and communicated its approval for all three in their response on April 28, 2021. These approvals were contingent, however, on the Chair of the NECHE visiting team conducting a personal on-site visit to the NEC campuses and the three Dallas College campuses. These visits were completed on May 26, 2021 and June 3, 2021 respectively. NEC has requested that NECHE now accept and affirm its full approval for these three proposed changes at the September 2021 meeting of the NECHE Commission. The College acknowledged that it will submit its Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment (ARFE) by December 1, 2021 which will give emphasis to finance and enrollment on the Dallas campuses, and ensuring that the institution's website comprehensively reflects all of NEC's programs.

NEC informed the NH Higher Education Commission that it is developing a clinical BSN licensure program. This program has been reviewed by the Commission and next needs to be reviewed and approved by the NH Board of Nursing. From there it goes to NECHE as a substantive change request.

Upper Valley Educators Institute (UVEI): In its letter of February 22, 2021 NECHE informed the Upper Valley Educators Institute (UVEI) that it had voted on January 21, 2021 to grant Candidacy status to UVEI effective October 21, 2020.

Following this action, UVEI received approval from the US Department of Education to change its accreditor of record from ACCET to NECHE. Further, UVEI and the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education (UVGSE) have completely merged and now operate under the name Upper Valley Educators Institute with NECHE as its accreditor.

These planned organizational changes do not affect the institution's degree programs which are approved by the NH Higher Education Commission, and the Council for Teacher Education/NH State Board of Education.

UVEI is to submit a progress report to NECHE on January 15, 2022 to be considered at NECHE's spring meeting. NECHE has scheduled an on-site biennial evaluation for the spring of 2023, a normal process for Candidate institutions.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

Northern Vermont University: (NVU) Annual Report, June 30, 2021. Northern Vermont University (NVU) offers the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, using a hybrid delivery format, to cohorts in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Wisconsin, and Alaska. The program was transferred to NVU from SNHU in 2018. It has maintained a steady and stable enrollment of about 100 students each semester and operates with an annual budget surplus. The program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

NECHE conducted a substantive change on-site visit in the summer of 2020 and in a letter of October 15, 2020 included the program within the regional accreditation of NVU.

Program leadership has been stable over the years and faculty are appropriately experienced and credentialed. Curriculum alignment with CACREP standards has been completed, and alignment with the MA in Mental Health Counseling at the Johnson Campus of NVU is continuing. There have been no curriculum changes of substance.

This is a well-regarded program that has served professionals in the field of mental health counseling for many years.

Rocky Vista University, College of Osteopathic Medicine: Founded in 2006, Rocky Vista University (RVU) is a for-profit institution based in Parker, CO, a suburb of Denver, CO. RVU, accredited by the HLC, serves about 1000 students in its Osteopathic Medicine, Physician Assistant, and MS in Behavioral Sciences programs. The University requested administrative approval for its Master of Physician Assistant (MPA) program, as students might wish to do their internship in New Hampshire. The MPA program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA). However, the MPA program is on probationary status by the ARC-PA with compliance reports due on July 1, 2021 and on December 15, 2021, with a comprehensive visit scheduled for March, 2023. The program graduates have a pass rate lower than the national average on the licensure examination, and the program has had mixed experience in meeting the ARC-PA standards.

The Director denied Administrative Approval and urged the University to re-apply for approval once full accreditation is restored. In the interim, the Director noted willingness to approve, on a case-by-case basis, specific student practicums or clinical experiences for RVU students that wish to complete these components here in New Hampshire. If the University Physician Assistant Program wishes to place a student in New Hampshire, they simply need to be in touch with the Commission Office to discuss the particulars of the placement and the student's academic progress.

South University: South University, a private, now for-profit university, was founded in 1899, is based in Savannah, GA, but has 11 additional education centers around the country. It is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and serves approximately 4000 students in Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral programs that are “focused and flexible”. The University is accredited through 2024 and has a progress report due in 2020, which was with the Commission. Administrative approval was given to 31 University programs, which have been approved since 2018 and are now approved through June 30, 2022.

In August 2021 South University sought approval for two additional programs: an AS in Medical Assistant, and a new specialization in Software and Mobile Applications within their already approved BS in Information Technology. These requests were made to permit the University to accommodate transfer students from the recently and suddenly closed Independence University.

The rationale for approval was strong. They already have an AS in Medical Assistant, but it’s in the face-to-face format, so this is just shifting it to an online format for the displaced IU students. Likewise, the Commission had already approved their BS in Information Technology degree, so they have the base upon which to build the requested specialization in Software and Mobile Applications. Their regional accreditation association, the Southern Association for Schools and Colleges, has approved their transfer arrangements for the IU students.

Administrative approval was given through June 30, 2022, when all of the University’s programs are up for renewed approval.

The letter of approval notes that all programs come up for review in the spring of 2022.

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences: The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences was founded in 1979, and all programs are in the health sciences at the graduate level. The University maintains campuses in California, Texas and Florida and is regionally accredited by WASC, the Western Association of Senior Colleges Commission. The University is a private, for-profit corporation owned by Atlas Partners, a private equity firm.

The University’s programs are offered mostly online with students seeking their required experiences in practicum, clinical, internship, or fieldwork with local health care providers close to their home of residence. Students residing close to one of the physical sites can enroll in hybrid classes with some face-to-face classes on campus. All of their health -related programs are accredited by the appropriate program accreditation associations. The University submitted comprehensive documentation including curricular structures, course syllabi, and faculty credentials. The academic programs appear rigorous with appropriate numbers of credit hours. Tuition and related costs are easy to access. They provide students with detailed information regarding eligibility for taking qualifying examinations or licensure qualifications, and the importance for students to be knowledgeable about the varying regulations of the state in which they plan to practice.

The Director granted Administrative Approval for the following programs through June 30,2023 with annual reports required.

- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Post Graduate Nursing Certificate – FNP

University of Southern California: The University of Southern California was granted administrative approval by the Director for the following programs. This was a renewal of the Commission’s earlier approval. Extensive documentation on curriculum, faculty and accreditation status accompanied the application. These are primarily online programs that may have clinical, practicum, or internships in New Hampshire. Approvals are through June 30, 2023.

- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) (Approved in July 2021)
- Master of Arts in Teaching with concentrations (MAT)
- Master of Arts in Teaching with Gifted Education Certificate (MAT-Gifted)
- Master of Arts in Teaching with TESOL Certificate (MAT-TESOL)
- Master of Education in School Counseling (MESC)
- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of Applied Psychology (MSAP)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Master of Science in Gerontology (MSG)
- Master of Science in Lifespan, Nutrition, and Dietetics (MSLND)
- Master of Science in Nutrition, Healthspan, and Longevity, Coordinated Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (MSNHL)
- Master of Arts in Foodservice Management and Dietetics (MAFMD)

Walden University (NY): The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) acted on June 24, 2021, and reaffirmed on August 9, 2021, to approve the extension of accreditation to Walden University after acquisition by Adtalem Global Education, Inc. HLC will conduct a focused visit to Walden within six months of the closure of the transaction.

Administrative Approvals for Online Programs: *Administrative approval is granted to institutions within states that are not members of the NC-SARA or have elected to not participate through NC-SARA to operate in New Hampshire and offer online degrees that require a practicum/internship/clinical.*

Post-Master's Certificates:

International Colleges and Universities:

American University of Madaba (AUM): The University has a new president, Dr. Mamoun Akroush, and has moved its New Hampshire office location to Rivier University. Sister Paula Buley, President of Rivier University, is a member of the Board of Trustees of AUM.

AUM will be going through a NECHE Eligibility on-visit in October 2021, with consideration by the NECHE Commission scheduled for November 2021.

The Director has approved a name change for AUM's Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design to a Bachelor of Arts in Design & Applied Arts. The University changed a few design related course requirements to reflect market demands and a name change to align with career positions available to its graduates.

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Submitted by Pat Moquin

From July 1, 2021 until August 31, 2021 (FY 2022), 204 college/university transcripts and 25 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of \$4080. During the same period in the prior year (FY 2021), a total of 603 college/university transcripts and 28 career school transcripts were processed.

(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the transcript request fee was waived for 12 months from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21).

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- Communication with all institution presidents who receive UNIQUE Annual Allocation Program (UAAP) and UNIQUE Endowment Allocation Program (UEAP) monies in preparation for the report of funds received and distributed.
- Worked with USNH, CCSNH, NHCUC, Registered Apprenticeship, Career school, and Veterans services contacts to gather information for the upcoming Status of Postsecondary Education in NH report.
- Fulfilled miscellaneous research requests.

Please review “**Director’s Report: Summer/Fall 2021 Research and News**” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attached).

Top issues this quarter:

- **Debt and Financial Aid Issues**
- **Leadership trends**
- **Local College News**

Please see attached “News and Research in Higher Education, Summer/Fall 2021” document.

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on October 13. The surveys to be completed include: Institutional Characteristics, Completions, and 12-month Enrollment. Steady progress is being made by the institutions.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOLS LICENSING (OCSL)

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman

Correspondence between the Office of Career School Licensing and career schools has continued to improve and most correspondence remains virtual via online meetings, phone calls and email. Schools continue to increase in-person learning and few others remain online or hybrid learning models.

A new bill was signed by the Governor, SB148, specifically Part IV, has passed and goes into effect October 9, 2021. This new exemption is to be added to RSA 188-G:1, II (m) *Entities that have annual gross tuition of \$100,000 or less*. We anticipate about 40 active career schools will meet the new exemption. The majority of which will change to an exempt status and a few will remain licensed voluntarily for a variety of reason.

Below are some of the other activities that were conducted by the OCSL team since the last Commission meeting in May 2021.

Completed site visits to the following schools:

Site visits have been completed virtually.

Renewed the licenses of the following schools:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Whole Pet Grooming Academy • HRB Tax Group • CIM Photography • Microdesk • Harmony Health Care Institute • International Academy of Wildlife Art • LNA Health Careers • Birthwise Midwifery School • Nashua Adult Learning Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certstaffix Training • Boatwise Marine Training • Concord Hospital Surgical Technology Program • Becker Professional Education • New England EMS Institute • Best Hypnosis Training • United Training Academy |
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Currently reviewing license renewal/annual filing applications for the following schools:

- Advanced Technical Schooling

New School Applications:

- Medical Gas Credentialing (approved)

- XLos Education Center (approved)
- Devi Soul Reiki and Healing LLC (approved)
- Prison Yoga Project, Inc. (approved)
- Short Cut to Profit Business Academy (pending)
- The Language Bank (pending)

Processing/Completed the closure of the following schools:

- Thomas Institute of Hypnotherapy (pending)
- IMAGINiT Technologies (pending)

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Jeffrey Newman at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.S.Newman@doe.nh.gov.

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES (VES)

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman

Veterans Education Services (VES) is New Hampshire’s State Approving Agency that approves all facilities and programs that are subject to funding under the GI Bill®. This includes institutions of higher learning, high schools, non-college degree programs, and certificates, on-the-job training and apprenticeships. This includes both traditional college study and workforce development programs. Currently, there are approximately 12,948 veterans and dependents in New Hampshire involved in various programs and courses of study subject to the GI Bill®.

The current circumstances of the pandemic have restricted in-person visits and outreach as institutions shift modalities from in-person training to distance learning. We have adapted by conducting remote visits within VA guidelines.

Below are some of the activities the VES team accomplished from May 1, 2021, through October 1, 2021:

- Worked with New Hampshire Military Leadership Team and Justice-Involved Task Force to work to improve the status of statewide veterans programs, initiatives, and dispersal of funds;
- Coordinating with VA and NH Veterans Affairs to conduct a training in June, 2021 for School certifying Officials from Institutions of Higher Learning (“IHL”, 2- and 4- year institutions) and Non College Degree (“NCD”, trade/career schools)
- Conducted compliance survey visits to 1 facility: New England School of Barbering;
- Provided 686 program approvals and withdrawals at the request of school certifying officials.

Students Receiving VA Educational Benefits within New Hampshire:

IHLs (Institutions of Higher Learning): 12,518

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| • Antioch University of New England: 17 | • MCPHS University (formerly Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences): 12 |
| • Colby-Sawyer College: 9 | • Nashua Community College: 40 |
| • Dartmouth College: 63 | • New England College: 88 |
| • Dartmouth-Tuck School: 29 | • NHTI – Concord’s Community College: 97 |
| • Dartmouth-Geisel School: 11 | • Plymouth State University: 100 |
| • Franklin Pierce University (all campuses): 28 | • River Valley Community College: 40 |
| • Granite State College (all campuses): 154 | • Rivier University: 35 |
| • Great Bay Community College (both campuses): 81 | • Saint Anselm College: 22 |
| • Keene State College: 71 | • St. Joseph School of Nursing: 1 |
| • Lakes Region Community College: 26 | • Southern New Hampshire University (all campuses and online): 11,002 |
| • Manchester Community College: 106 | • Thomas More College of Liberal Arts: 1 |
| • Manchester School of Technology: 1 | • UNH (all campuses): 454 |
| • Magdalen College (formerly Northeast Catholic College): 1 | • White Mountains Community College: 28 |

NCDs (Non-College Degree schools): 382

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| • American School of Nursing and Medical Careers (ex-Salter): 8 | • Commercial Driving School: 8 |
| | • Continental Academie of Hair Design: 1 |

- Dover School of Technology: 1
- Empire Beauty School (all campuses): 4
- Granite State Emergency Medical Services: 3
 - Heavy Construction Academy: 233
 - Michaels School of Hair Design: 2
 - NH EMS Institute: 8
 - NH School of Barbering: 6
 - NH Department of Safety - Fire Standards and Training: 4
- New Hampshire Police Standards and Training: 27
- NH School of Mechanical Trades: 9
- Paul Mitchell: 3
- SOLO/Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities: 16
- Whole Pet Grooming Academy: 0

Apprenticeships:

- All apprenticeships: **20**

On the Job Training:

- All OJTs: **26**

Flight Schools:

- All Flight Schools: **2**

Total: 12,948

Note: This information is based on the Veterans Benefits Administration Facilities Count Report for NH, May 2021. Current numbers may vary.

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Jeffrey Newman at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.Newman@doe.nh.gov.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

The Department is tracking numerous bills with potential implications for the postsecondary education community.

Number	Bill	Status
HB 234	Relative to freedom of speech and association on college campuses	Retained
HB 513	Relative to the degree granting authority of Signum University	Effective 7/29/2021
SB 147	Relative to applications for federal student aid	Effective 1/1/22
HB 319	Relative to requiring students at USNH & CCSNH to pass the US citizenship test	Retained
SB 148	Relative to private postsecondary career schools (noted above)	Effective 10/09/2021

SB 134- The Division continues to work on the implementation of SB 134 (see attachment; Item # 6)b.) which, among other items, requires the NH DOE to perform criminal record checks on professional educator preparation program students.

For further information on any bill, the link to NH. General Court is as follows:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/quick_search.html