



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. R. Austin Gilbert, Jr., Chairman, and Members,
Commission on Higher Education

From: Mr. Winfred S. Greene, Chairman
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

W. S. Greene

Consideration of Licensing Requests

Amendment to the current License to add a Columbia Location for Webster University, St. Louis, MO to offer:

M.A., Business, Computer Resources and Information Management, Counseling, Health Services Management, Human Resource Development, Management

M.B.A., Computer Resources and Information Management, Health Services Management, Human Resources Development, Management,

Summary

The Commission has licensed Webster University to operate in Charleston since 1983 and in Myrtle Beach and Greenville since 1992. The Commission renewed the license for five years in February 1997. Reviewing teams examined Webster's operations in the State in 1984, 1987, 1992, and 1997. Webster currently offers programs in Columbia at Fort Jackson (since 1975), and currently enrolls 210 students there; 45 are military personnel. The high demand for facilities at Fort Jackson, coupled with the growth of the program, forced institution officials to seek additional facilities. The institution does not anticipate a significant increase in enrollments in Columbia with a new facility. It does not expect the additional facility to affect the racial composition of any similar degrees offered by public colleges or universities in the State. The proposed location is 10,000 square feet in a professional building that a commercial real estate developer will construct at 8910 Two Notch Road (next to the BB&T building). Webster officials are in the process of finalizing the lease agreement.

Under our current Licensing regulations, programs operating on military bases are not subject to state licensure. The addition of a new site in Columbia, however, does require that Webster University seek the appropriate site-specific amendment to its license. The University intends to retain its current Fort Jackson site.

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited Webster University since 1925. The accreditation includes undergraduate and graduate levels at all locations where the University offers programs. Webster offers graduate programs in 15 states, the District of Columbia, Austria (Vienna), Bermuda (Hamilton), China (Shanghai), Thailand (Cha-am), The Netherlands (Leiden, Holland), Switzerland (Geneva), and the United Kingdom (London).

Students who enroll in Webster programs are usually working adults. The average age of students in South Carolina is 32. These non-traditional students are attracted to the accessible schedule, the working/teaching faculty, and the small classes.

All applicants considered for admission to Webster University's graduate programs must have earned a recognized baccalaureate degree. A regional accrediting agency must have accredited institutions in the United States, and degrees from institutions located abroad must be equivalent. Other matters taken into consideration for admissions are: a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale, grades on prerequisite courses, an essay, recommendations, school/community achievements, and professional work experience. Students enrolled in the M.A. programs may transfer a maximum of 12 graduate credit hours (nine for the M.B.A.) from other regionally accredited graduate institutions.

Students are provisionally admitted upon completion of all admission requirements. Students are advanced to candidacy status after successfully completing 12 credit hours with a grade of B or better within the first 15 credit hours of enrollment in courses required for the degree (excluding program prerequisites). Students who do not meet the requirement for advancement to candidacy status will be automatically dismissed from the program.

Students must receive written authorization to enroll in more than six credit hours per term. Courses are scheduled in five nine-week terms per year: Summer, Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, and Spring 2. Classes meet for four hours one night a week for nine weeks.

The majority of faculty who teach for Webster in South Carolina hold terminal degrees from regionally accredited universities. They typically work in the profession in which they teach, bringing a blend of academic theories and real-life experiences to the classroom. The programs in South Carolina are administered by a doctoral credentialed regional director. Each site director reports to the regional director and has the local responsibility for student services (recruiting, orientation, registration, certification for veterans benefits, record-keeping, collection and recording of fees), instructional program (faculty recruiting, interaction and evaluation), and general administration (communication with the regional director and main campus, reporting, public relations, and marketing).

Other local staff include a faculty coordinator, academic advisor, community relations coordinator, counseling coordinator, and a computer lab technician.

All Webster facilities are equipped with appropriately furnished administrative offices, classrooms with audio-visual equipment, computer laboratories with Internet connection, and a library containing professional journals, appropriate subject periodicals, and basic subject reference materials. Students have access to Webster University's PASSPORTS library on the Internet. Students can use their student identification to log on to access several research databases and request articles and books through the system. Webster reimburses students for the \$25 fee for use of the USC-Thomas Cooper Library. Other local resources are the Richland and Lexington County Public Libraries and their branches.

The following table shows the programs Webster plans to offer at the new facility:

Program	Credit Hours	Brief Description
Business	M.A. 36	Various facets of decision making for business; theoretical knowledge and models for problem solving in business, and experiences in the business sciences.
Computer Resources & Information Management	M.A. 36 M.B.A. 48	Information technology as a management tool; applications of computer technology to business operations and development of effective communication and management strategies.
Counseling	M.A. 48	For individuals pursuing a career in professional counseling/mental health counseling; theory and skills in counselor training recommended by the American Counseling Association; satisfies the educational requirements for the National Board for Certified Counselors.
Health Services Management (this program is not currently offered at other sites in SC)	M.A. 39 M.B.A. 51	Management or administration in the health field (nonclinical); focuses on issues most frequently encountered as administrative staff of a health care facility.
Human Resources Development	M.A. 36 M.B.A. 48	Designed to help the student understand human relations issues confronting individuals and organizations; combines human relations training and development with organizational development training; and focuses on maximizing the importance of the human element in organizational structures.
Management	M.A. 36 M.B.A. 48	Tools of management and experiences in simulations of decision-making situations; analytical techniques of management decision-making and ability in application of the techniques in actual problem solving.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Commission amend Webster University's license for the current license period through January 2002 to include a site in Columbia. The staff will issue the license after the facility is constructed, equipped, and inspected.

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