



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Agenda Item 3.c.

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

September 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

From: Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing *GMM*

Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Recruit South Carolina Residents Into New Programs

M.A.T., Early Childhood Education and M.A.T., Special Education
Walden University, Inc.; Minneapolis, MN

Summary

Walden University www.waldenu.edu requests approval to **recruit** South Carolina residents into its distance learning programs leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching degree in (1) Early Childhood Education and (2) Special Education for immediate implementation.

Walden University, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a private, online, for-profit institution, in the Laureate International Universities network, which is owned by a private investment group. The group includes Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., Citi Private Equity, S.A.C. Capital Management, LLC, SPG Partners, Bregal Investments, Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec, Sterling Capital, Makena Capital, Torreal S.A., Brenthurst Funds, Vulcan Capital, and others. The Laureate International Universities worldwide network includes 270,000 students enrolled in 25 institutions with 58 campuses in 16 countries. Founded in 1970, Walden offers degrees online to professionals around the world. Degree programs include education, management, psychology, social service, nursing, health sciences, public administration, and engineering.

In November 2004 CHE approved licensure for Walden to recruit South Carolina residents into programs leading to various undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited Walden since 1990. The office of Institutional Registration and Licensing of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education approves Walden University to offer bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees. More than 20 other states also license or approve Walden to offer its programs to their residents.

The following information from the U.S. Department of Education shows student loan default rates at Walden.

OPE ID	School	Type	Control	PRGMS		FY2005	FY2004	FY2003
025042	Walden University 155 5th Avenue South Minneapolis MN 55401-2511	Master's Degree or Doctor's Degree	Proprietary	Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL)	Default Rate	0.6	0.7	1.2
					No. in Default	21	9	6
					No. in Repay	3161	1252	468

The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership is one of four colleges at Walden University. The Riley College's full-time administrative staff includes a vice president who reports to the president of the University; a director for Ed.D. programs; associate deans for doctoral, master's undergraduate, and educator licensure; and an assessment director. The Riley College also employs 41 full-time and 508 part-time faculty members.

Faculty selections are based on an earned doctoral degree in a field appropriate to the faculty member's program, current or recent graduate teaching experience, an active research program (including publications), experience mentoring graduate students and serving on dissertation or thesis committees, other relevant supervisory experience, and the ability and willingness to utilize electronic means to communicate with Walden students, faculty, administration, and staff. In addition, faculty members hired to teach and supervise in the teacher certification programs must currently hold or have held in the recent past state-issued certification for the grade level span and subject areas related to the program in which they are teaching or supervising teacher candidates.

For admission into a master's program, applicants must have a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.3 grade point average from a United States institution that holds regional or specialized accreditation. Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE) must evaluate credentials from a foreign institution as equivalent to a bachelor's degree awarded by an accredited institution.

Walden officials project that the University will enroll in the first year approximately 50 South Carolina residents into the M.A.T. programs.

For the 2007-2008 academic year tuition is \$435 per credit hour for the first 37 credits and \$485 per credit for the final six credits. The total tuition for the program is \$19,005.

Each of the programs leading to the M.A.T. degree includes a total of 43 semester credit hours that students typically complete in 20 months. Each program includes a 13 semester-credit core of the following courses:

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
EDUC 6605	Teacher as Lifelong Learner and Professional Educator	3
EDUC 6606	Today's Classroom and the Diverse Learner	3
EDUC 6607	Effective Practices: Assessment, Teaching, and Learning	3
EDUC 6608	Classroom Management	3
EDUC 6609	Seminar: Professional Ethics, Communication, and Collaboration	1

Included in the core curriculum is the demonstrated teaching experience. Students teach at two grade levels within a local South Carolina school district. The host school selects a supervising teacher with appropriate grade level certification and experience. A Walden faculty member also supervises and conducts a minimum of six site visits within the 14-week demonstration teaching experience.

M.A.T., Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education program offers an in-depth look at increasing positive child development from infancy through grade three. Curriculum information is posted on the web site of Walden. Following the core courses, the curriculum is delivered in the following prescribed sequence:

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
EDUC 6681	Early Childhood Education: Past, Present, and Future	3
EDUC 6682	Teaching Reading P-3	3
EDUC 6683	Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Infants & Toddlers	3
EDUC 6684	Play and Learning for the Preschool Child	3
EDUC 6685	Teaching Mathematics P-3	3
EDUC 6686	Teaching Across the Content Areas	3
EDUC 6687	Demonstration Teaching: Early Childhood Education	6
EDUC 6621	Educational Research: Foundations	3
EDUC 6622	Educational Research: Practical Applications	3

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, projects that job prospects are expected to be favorable for preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers. Employment is expected to grow by 12 percent between 2006 and 2016. Most job openings will result from the need to replace the large number of teachers who are expected to retire.

Eleven public and 15 private colleges and universities in the State offer teacher education certification programs in early childhood education.

M.A.T., Special Education, Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K-12)

The Special Education, Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K-12) program offers practical knowledge and understanding of how best to serve the educational needs and tap the potential of students with emotional and behavioral exceptionalities. Curriculum information is posted on the web site of Walden. Following the core courses, the curriculum is delivered in the following prescribed sequence:

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
EDUC 6691	Foundations of Special Education	3
EDUC 6692	Individualizing Education for Learners with Disabilities	3
EDUC 6693	Current Issues in Assessment and Intervention	3
EDUC 6694	Reading and Writing Instruction for Learners With Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 6695	Planning Positive Behavior Support Strategies	3
EDUC 6696	Instructional Strategies for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders	3
EDUC 6699	Demonstration Teaching: Emotional/Behavioral Disorders	6
EDUC 6621	Educational Research: Foundations	3
EDUC 6622	Educational Research: Practical Applications	3

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, projects that job prospects for special education teachers should be excellent. Although student enrollments in general are expected to grow slowly, continued increases in the number of special education students needing services and the need to replace teachers who switch to teaching general education, change careers altogether, or retire will generate a greater need.

U.S.C.-Columbia offers a program leading to the M.A.T. in Special Education, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. In addition, the following table from the Commission’s program inventory lists similar initial certification programs offered by independent institutions.

Institution	Degree	Institution Program Name	CIP CODE
<u>Bob Jones University</u>	B.S., M.A.T.	Emotional Disabilities	131005
<u>Converse College</u>	B.A., M.A.T.	Education of the Emotionally Handicapped	131005
<u>Furman University</u>	M.A.	Education of the Emotionally Handicapped	131005
<u>Southern Wesleyan University</u>	B.S.	Education of the Emotionally Handicapped	131005

M.A.T., Special Education, Learning Disabilities (K-12)

In the Learning Disabilities (K-12) program candidates become familiar with the characteristics of students with learning disabilities, learn instructional methods to support student learning, develop and design appropriate accommodations, and learn strategies for teaching. Curriculum information is posted on the web site of Walden. Following the core courses, the curriculum is delivered in the following prescribed sequence:

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
EDUC 6691	Foundations of Special Education	3
EDUC 6692	Individualizing Education for Learners with Disabilities	3
EDUC 6693	Current Issues in Assessment and Intervention	3
EDUC 6694	Reading and Writing Instruction for Learners With Exceptionalities	3
EDUC 6695	Planning Positive Behavior Support Strategies	3
EDUC 6697	Instructional Strategies for Students with Learning Disabilities	3
EDUC 6698	Demonstration Teaching: Learning Disabilities	6
EDUC 6621	Educational Research: Foundations	3
EDUC 6622	Educational Research: Practical Applications	3

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, projects that job prospects are expected to be excellent because of the increases in the number of special education students needing services. Employment is expected to grow by 15 percent between 2006 and 2016.

U.S.C.-Columbia offers a program leading to the M.A.T. degree in Special Education, Learning Disabilities; Francis Marion University offers a program leading to the M.A.T. degree in Learning Disabilities; and U.S.C.-Upstate offers a program leading to the B.S., Special Education, Learning Disabilities. The following table from the Commission's academic inventory shows independent institutions that offer initial certification programs with similar titles.

Institution	Degree	Institution Program Name	CIP CODE
<u>Bob Jones University</u>	B.S., M.A.T.	Learning Disabilities	131011
<u>Converse College</u>	B.A., M.A.T.	Education of the Specific Learning Disabled	131011
<u>Furman University</u>	M.A.	Education of the Specific Learning Disabled	131011
<u>Southern Wesleyan University</u>	B.S.	Education of the Specific Learning Disabled	131011

In addition, six public and seven private colleges and universities in the State offer teacher education certification programs in special education.

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission an amendment to the license of Walden University to allow the institution to begin recruiting immediately South Carolina residents into programs leading to the M.A.T. degree in (1) Early Childhood Education (Birth – Grade three) and (2) Special Education.