



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

**October 10, 2023: Commission Meeting  
Meeting Packet**

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

**October 10, 2023: Commission Meeting  
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**NH Department of Education  
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education  
Higher Education Commission**

**October 10, 2023: Commission Meeting**  
**[Meeting Agenda](#)**

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**Date & Time:** Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 2:00 pm

**Location:** 25 Hall Street | Concord, NH 03301 | Granite State College Building | Event Center

**Virtual Options:**

**Phone Number:** +1 646 518 9805 US (New York) or +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

**ID & Passcode:** 858 2656 4808 | 146624

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85826564808?pwd=MVRXcVFCVmt6dlBvMjN6NjhqRTRjdz09>

- 1) Call to Order (Chair Birx)
- 2) Minutes – February 14, 2023 and May 25, 2023 (Attachments) (Chair Birx)  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended or amended*
- 3) Administrative Rules - Hedc 400 - Conditional Approval (attachment)  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended*
- 4) Commission Membership
  - a. Chair and Co-Chair  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended or amended*
- 5) Appointment to College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Committee (attachment)  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended or amended*
- 6) Confirmation of Meeting Dates
  - a. Discussion – Shift to Two Meetings Per Year
  - b. Correction of October 11, 2024 meeting date to October 8, 2024
  - c. Statutory Changes to Quorum (Attachment)  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended or amended*
- 7) Director’s Report
  - a. Discussion of Official Vote to Accept the Report  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended or amended*
- 8) Administrative Rules – Hedc 400 – Adoption  
*Action Requested: Approval as recommended*
- 9) Adjourn

**[Link to Prior Meetings: HIGHER ED COMMISSION MTGS, MINS, and AGENDAS](#)**

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

**October 10, 2023: Commission Meeting**  
**February 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

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**Frank Edelblut**  
Commissioner

**Christine Brennan**  
Deputy Commissioner

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education  
Higher Education Commission  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301  
TEL. (603) 271-2409  
FAX (603) 271-4134**

A meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held on Tuesday February 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at 25 Hall Steet, Concord, NH 03301, Granite State College Building, Event Center. The following members present:

Donald Birx, Chair  
Sr. Paula Marie Buley, Vice Chair  
Michele Perkins  
Frank Edelblut  
Cathy Provencher  
Joseph Favazza  
Mark Rubinstein  
Charles Lloyd  
Michael Apfelberg  
Mark Laliberte

The following members were not present:

James Dean  
Shawn Fitzgerald  
Susan Stuebner  
Melinda Treadwell  
Alfred Williams  
Kevin O'Shea

1. Chair Donald Birx called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present.
2. Director Appleby shared highlights from the Director's Report.

- The administrative approvals are typically for California institutions because they're not a SARA state.
  - There has been a significant decline in requests for closed school transcripts, back to the historical levels, since the time that DOE once again started to charge a fee for the service.
  - There are continuing efforts to update the Director's Report and to make it more user-friendly.
3. Program Approvals – Scott, the chair of the review committee, and Triant Flouris, Managing Director of NEAI, presented the New England Aeronautical Institute's BS in Aviation Degree program.
- A full-day review was conducted on September 26.
  - The site team identified areas that need continued development for consideration - areas such as budgeting, finance, institutional policy and procedures, the institutional website, learning management system, and the academic program.
  - An interim report was submitted to the DOE regarding the status of the above items.
  - On January 30, 2023, there was a follow-up meeting to look at what progress had been made. The areas identified for continued development had been addressed.
  - A recommendation was made for the HEC to grant approval for the NEAI BS in Aviation Degree through June 30, 2026.

Chair Donald Birx called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

- 3 (cont'd). Triant Flouris discussed specifics of the Aviation Degree program and answered questions about what the degree can be used for, what competing programs exist, the size of the initial cohorts, and the transferability of credits from other programs. The vision of the program is to have a New Hampshire degree with a global reach.

Michele Perkins moved, seconded by Charles Lloyd, to approve the New England Aeronautical Institute in a BS in Aviation Degree program. The motion was approved without dissent via roll call vote.

Chair Donald Birx opened the public hearing at 2:30 p.m.

4. Minutes of the October 11, 2022, Commission Meeting were attached to the agenda and reviewed by members present. Frank Edelblut moved, seconded by Charles Lloyd, to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed without dissent via roll call vote with Michele Perkins abstaining.
5. Administrative Rules Public Hearing – Hedc 400

Steve Appleby summarized the changes to Hedc 400 that need to be voted upon.

- The new rules take into account the existence of the SARA system. The previous set of rules were enacted prior to SARA.
- Items were updated to align with NECHE.
- The program approval process was streamlined and clarified.
- International institutions were removed due to NECHE's change in how international institutions are handled.
- Fees were updated to match workload expenses.

- There is now more flexibility for institutions to experiment with programs.
- The Hedc 400s expire every 10 years. It is proposed to remove the bylaws and place them in the Hedc 100s, where they cannot expire. This is helpful so that the commission will not accidentally expire. In the final proposal vote, there will be the Hedc 100, taken word for word from Hedc 403, in addition to the Hedc 400.

There were no public comments.

6. The public hearing was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

DRAFT



**Frank Edelblut**  
Commissioner

**Christine Brennan**  
Deputy Commissioner

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education  
Higher Education Commission  
101 Pleasant Street  
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FAX (603) 271-4134**

An emergency meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 4:00pm via Zoom. The following members present:

Donald Birx, Chair  
Sr. Paula Marie Buley, Vice Chair  
Frank Edelblut  
Shawn Fitzgerald  
Cathy Provencher  
Mark Rubinstein  
Melinda Treadwell  
Michael Apfelberg  
Mark Laliberte  
Kevin O'Shea

The following members were not present:

James Dean  
Joseph Favazza  
Charles Lloyd  
Kim Mooney  
Michele Perkins  
Susan Stuebner  
Alfred Williams

1. Chair Donald Birx called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A quorum was present.
2. Director Appleby shared the Final Proposed Revisions to the Hedc 400 Administrative Rules.
  - The revised Hedc 400 rules were sent in a packet prior to the meeting.

- The Office of Legislative Services made comments and requested changes.
- Director Appleby outlined the four significant changes:
  - o Removal of operations section of the rules and creation of Hedc 100 section. Doing so means the operations portion of the rules will not expire. OLS also advised that creation of an executive committee would require a statutory change, not a change to the Hedc 400 rules. The executive committee section has been removed.
  - o Reference to RSA 292:8c through 8:h has been removed. OLS has noted we can only use the RSA reference if the Hedc 400 rules state the same; however, stating the same creates unnecessary redundancy in the rules.
  - o Reference to RSA 292:8-kk has been removed, owing again to redundancy of the Hedc 400 rules to the RSA.
  - o Addition in the fee table of accreditation observation 'by designee' in addition to the Director.

If approved by the Higher Education Commission, the final proposal will be sent back to OLS to be placed on next month's JLCAR agenda. If JLCAR votes to move forward, we will have a final adoption vote at an upcoming Higher Education Commission meeting.

Cathy Provencher moved, seconded by Sr. Paula Marie Buley, to approve as recommended the final proposal revision of the Hedc 400 Administrative Rules.

Prior to a vote for approval, there was discussion prompted by Dr. Mark Rubinstein regarding 401(c)(4) and the term 'entity.' The current rules state, "Contract with a New Hampshire entity that develops curriculum or instructional materials." Dr. Rubinstein was concerned that, without a definition or clarification of the term, there was the potential that the language creates a loophole or gap in coverage not addressed elsewhere in the rules.

Director Appleby noted there should possibly be an 'or' notation after 401(c)(1) and (2).

Regarding the origin of the 401(c)(3) language, Dr. Richard Gustafson did not specifically confirm that there has been an outside entity working with one of our colleges or universities, but from time to time there has been a contractual arrangement with another entity or institution – example of college contracting out ESOL work and having an outside group offer ESOL classes. Director Appleby noted that the section might be relic language from a time when there were concerns about correspondence schools.

Discussion was concluded with the recommendation that the verbiage remain, but that the section be flagged as a future item for review. Director Appleby will research the history of the language and past rule iterations with OLS and report his findings to the Commission at a future meeting.

Chair Birx called for a vote on the motion for approval. The motion was approved without dissent via roll call vote.

Frank Edelblut moved, seconded by Sr. Paula Marie Buley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved without dissent via roll call vote.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.





Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner

Christine M. Brennan  
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
25 Hall Street, Suite 304  
Concord, NH 03301  
TEL. (603) 271-3495

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Conditional Approval Response and Adoption: Hedc 400, Degree-Granting Higher Education Institutions with a Physical Presence in NH

Submitted to the Higher Education Commission October 10, 2023:

**A. ACTION NEEDED**

A vote is needed to approve the conditional approval response for Hedc 400. Once the conditional approval response has been accepted by OLS, there will be a vote later in the meeting to adopt the rules.

**B. RATIONALE FOR ACTION**

At its meeting on June 16, 2023, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) voted, pursuant to RSA 541-A:13, V(a), to conditionally approve Final Proposal 2023-4 of the Higher Education Commission.

Pursuant to RSA 541-A:13, V(a), the commission is required to submit a written explanation detailing how the rules have been amended in accordance with the conditional approval within 7 days of the date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, which is October 10, 2023. The included conditional approval response shows the annotated changes, and only includes those sections with amendments: Hedc 403.01, 404.05, 404.06, 405.03, 405.04, 405.06, 405.07, 406.01, 406.02, and 406.03.

**C. EFFECTS OF THIS ACTION**

If the commission moves to approve the conditional approval response, the response will be submitted to Office of Legislative Services (OLS) to be accepted. Once the response has been accepted, the commission can vote to adopt the rules later in the meeting.

**D. POSSIBLE MOTION**

I move to approve the conditional approval response for Hedc 400.



**Frank Edelblut**  
Commissioner

**Christine M. Brennan**  
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301  
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**Higher Education Commission Members  
October 10, 2023**

**Chair**

Dr. Donald Birx  
President, Plymouth State University  
Statutory Appointment

**Vice Chair**

Sr. Paula Marie Buley  
IHM, President, Rivier University  
June 5, 2013 to June 30, 2025

**Commissioners**

Michael J. Apfelberg  
Lay Public  
August 2, 2023 to June 30, 2028

Dr. James (Jim) Dean  
President, University of New Hampshire  
Statutory Appointment

Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner, NH Department of Education  
Statutory Appointment

Joseph A. Favazza  
President, Saint Anselm College  
September 23, 2020 to June 30, 2024

Shawn M. Fitzgerald  
President, Antioch University  
October 27, 2021 to June 30, 2025

Mark J. Laliberte  
Lay Public  
July 11, 2018 to June 30, 2027

Dr. Charles Lloyd  
President, White Mountain Community College  
Statutory Appointment

Kim Mooney  
President, Franklin Pierce University  
February 22, 2023 to June 30, 2027

Kevin M. O'Shea  
Esq, Lay Public  
September 20, 2023 to June 30, 2028

Cathy Provencher  
Chief Administrative Officer, University System of New Hampshire  
Statutory Appointment

Dr. Mark Rubinstein  
Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire  
Statutory Appointment

Dr. Melinda Treadwell  
President, Keene State College  
Statutory Appointment

Alfred Williams IV  
President, River Valley Community College  
Statutory Appointment

**Reappointments and Vacancies:**

Dr. Susan D. Stuebner  
President, Colby-Sawyer College  
March 27, 2019 to June 30, 2023 – reappointment pending G&C

Vacant - Representative, Private 4-year college

Vacant - Representative, For-profit College or University, not a member of NHCUC

Vacant - Representative, Private Postsecondary Career Schools

Vacant - Representative, Private Postsecondary Career Schools

Vacant - Lay Public

**Monica I. Mezzapelle**  
STATE TREASURER



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**STATE TREASURY**  
25 CAPITOL STREET, ROOM 121  
CONCORD, NH 03301  
(603) 271-2621  
FAX (603) 271-3922  
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

April 27, 2023

Dr. Donald Birx, Chair  
Higher Education Commission  
NH Department of Education  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord NH 03301-3494

SUBJECT: Appointment to the College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission

Dear Dr. Birx:

RSA 195-H created the College Tuition Savings Plan (also known as the UNIQUE College Investing Plan) and the New Hampshire College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission (Advisory Commission) to administer and provide governance to this Plan. Pursuant to this statute, a member of the Higher Education Commission is to be appointed by a majority vote of the members of the Higher Education Commission to serve on the Advisory Commission.

The member who presently serves in this capacity is Sr. Paula Marie Buley, President of Rivier University. The purpose of this letter is to ask you to either reappoint this member or appoint a new member to a two-year term in accordance with RSA 195-H:2. Sr. Buley's term expires on June 30, 2023.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Monica I. Mezzapelle'.

Monica I. Mezzapelle  
State Treasurer

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

**October 10, 2022: Commission Meeting**  
**2023-2024 Commission Meeting Dates**

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<b>2023-2024 Commission Meeting Dates:</b>			
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Day:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
October 10, 2023	Tuesday	2:00pm	25 Hall St. Concord, NH 03301
February 13, 2024	Tuesday	2:00pm	25 Hall St. Concord, NH 03301
May 7, 2024	Tuesday	2:00pm	25 Hall St. Concord, NH 03301
October 8, 2024	Tuesday	2:00pm	25 Hall St. Concord, NH 03301

**Link to Prior Meetings:** [HIGHER ED COMMISSION MTGS, MINS, and AGENDAS](#)

**Statutory Change to Quorum: Access to Governmental Records and Meetings; Meetings Open to Public; Remote Meetings. Amend RSA 91-A:2 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:**

IV. The provisions of this paragraph allowing for less than a quorum to be physically present for meetings shall apply only to boards, committees, councils, advisory committees and like bodies of state government, not including the general court or either house thereof or any committee of either house, nor the governor and council, the composition of which is permitted by law or regulation to be drawn from individuals who may reside throughout the state of New Hampshire.

This paragraph does not apply to boards, committees, councils, advisory committees, or any other components or instrumentalities of county or municipal government.

For purposes of this paragraph only the boards, committees, councils, and like bodies to which this paragraph is applicable shall be referred to as **“state boards.”**

- (a) A **state board** covered by this paragraph may vote to allow one or more members to participate in a meeting remotely only when physical attendance at the meeting site is not reasonably practicable.

Any reason that **such attendance is not reasonably practicable shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting.**

The authority granted under this paragraph may be revoked, renewed, or modified in the same manner as it is approved.

- (b) **At least one-third of the total membership of the state board shall be present at the physical location of the meeting.**

Each member participating electronically or otherwise shall be able to contemporaneously and throughout the meeting see and hear, and be seen and heard by, the other members of the public body attending the meeting and members of the public in attendance at the meeting site.

**A member participating in a meeting remotely as described in this paragraph is deemed to be present for all purposes, including for determination of a quorum and voting.**

**Each member participating remotely shall identify the persons present in the location from which the member is participating.**

**All votes taken during such a meeting shall be by roll call vote.**

Members of the public shall be permitted to participate remotely in remotely held state board meetings, including testifying or asking questions as the rules and procedures of the board allow.

- (c) **No meeting shall be conducted by electronic mail or any other form of communication that does not permit the public to hear, read, or otherwise discern meeting discussion contemporaneously at the meeting location specified in the meeting notice.**

- (d) In an emergency, when immediate action is imperative and the physical presence requirement is not reasonably practicable within the period of time requiring action, the minimum physical presence required under subparagraph (b) shall not apply.

The determination that an emergency exists shall be made by the chair or presiding officer of the state board, and the facts upon which that determination is based shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

- (e) Any meeting held pursuant to the terms of this paragraph shall comply with all other requirements of this chapter relating to public meetings not inconsistent with this paragraph, and **shall not circumvent the spirit and purpose of this chapter as expressed in RSA 91-A:1.**

188:2 Effective Date. **effective October 3, 2023**

188:1 New Paragraph; Access to Governmental Records and Meetings; Meetings Open to Public; Remote Meetings. Amend RSA 91-A:2 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. The provisions of this paragraph allowing for less than a quorum to be physically present for meetings shall apply only to boards, committees, councils, advisory committees and like bodies of state government, not including the general court or either house thereof or any committee of either house, nor the governor and council, the composition of which is permitted by law or regulation to be drawn from individuals who may reside throughout the state of New Hampshire. This paragraph does not apply to boards, committees, councils, advisory committees, or any other components or instrumentalities of county or municipal government. For purposes of this paragraph only the boards, committees, councils, and like bodies to which this paragraph is applicable shall be referred to as “state boards.”

(a) A state board covered by this paragraph may vote to allow one or more members to participate in a meeting remotely only when physical attendance at the meeting site is not reasonably practicable. Any reason that such attendance is not reasonably practicable shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting. The authority granted under this paragraph may be revoked, renewed, or modified in the same manner as it is approved.

(b) At least one-third of the total membership of the state board shall be present at the physical location of the meeting. Each member participating electronically or otherwise shall be able to contemporaneously and throughout the meeting see and hear, and be seen and heard by, the other members of the public body attending the meeting and members of the public in

attendance at the meeting site. A member participating in a meeting remotely as described in this paragraph is deemed to be present for all purposes, including for determination of a quorum and voting. Each member participating remotely shall identify the persons present in the location from which the member is participating. All votes taken during such a meeting shall be by roll call vote. Members of the public shall be permitted to participate remotely in remotely held state board meetings, including testifying or asking questions as the rules and procedures of the board allow.

(c) No meeting shall be conducted by electronic mail or any other form of communication that does not permit the public to hear, read, or otherwise discern meeting discussion contemporaneously at the meeting location specified in the meeting notice.

(d) In an emergency, when immediate action is imperative and the physical presence requirement is not reasonably practicable within the period of time requiring action, the minimum physical presence required under subparagraph (b) shall not apply. The determination that an emergency exists shall be made by the chair or presiding officer of the state board, and the facts upon which that determination is based shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

(e) Any meeting held pursuant to the terms of this paragraph shall comply with all other requirements of this chapter relating to public meetings not inconsistent with this paragraph, and shall not circumvent the spirit and purpose of this chapter as expressed in RSA 91-A:1.

188:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

(effective October 3, 2023)

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

**October 10, 2023: Commission Meeting  
Director's Report**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES / NOTIFICATIONS**

**Staff Changes**

None at this time.

**REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS**

Director Steve Appleby and Higher Education Administrator Dr. Nick Marks attended the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Policy Conference in Denver, Colorado from August 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. The policy conference highlighted crucial issues and policy considerations states must address to build and sustain excellent systems of higher education. Attendees included SHEEO state agency executives and representatives, leaders from national higher education policy organizations, institutions, state and federal government, and vendors.

Dr. Marks attended the NC-SARA State Portal Entity (SPE) National Conference in Essex, Vermont from August 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. The conference program was informed by New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) staff and SPEs to address the most pertinent SARA topics as well as to provide opportunities for connection among state SPEs.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER**

Commissioner Frank Edelblut drafted a [letter](#) to New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) President Lawrence M. Schall regarding the recent Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) approval to Brigham Young University to offer 90-credit bachelor's degrees. Commissioner Edelblut's response requested that NECHE reconsider three-year programs submitted by New England College and Merrimack College.

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY**

**In-State and International Colleges and Universities under Commission Authority:**

**American University of Madaba (AUM):**

The University submitted its annual audit by PWC. A follow-up Zoom discussed some questions for clarification and the plans for FY 2023. The Director asked for an updated financial report due June, 2023. The University provided an updated financial report including additional appendices to address questions identified from the May report. The 2023 financial performance of AUM (actual compared to budget) will be included in AUM's March 1, 2024 report to the Commission.

The NECHE self-study was received in September, 2023, with the on-site evaluation team visit scheduled for November, 2023. A Commission observer will be present, via Zoom, at the exit interview of the NECHE visit.

In August 2023, AUM submitted two new programs for Administrative Approval:

- BA in English Language, Culture & Communication
- BS in Intelligent Robotics Systems Engineering



The BA in English Language, Culture & Communication is a revision of an already existing program in English Language & Literature, with minimal curricular updates that do not significantly change the content of the program, and to align the program title with others in the marketplace.

Both program changes have been approved by the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Higher Education Council (MOHE), and the Jordanian Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions (AQACHEI).

**The Director granted Administrative Approval for these 2 programs through June 30, 2026, with annual reports due each year by March 31<sup>st</sup>.** The Director has requested that program updates be provided as part of the University's annual report to the Commission, and include specific information pertaining to faculty resources, enrollment, and an update on the laboratories necessary to support the program. These reporting requirements will align to corresponding reporting requirements for the Jordanian Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions (AQACHEI).

### **Antioch University of New England**

The Director, along with Dr. Nicholas Marks and Dr. Richard Gustafson, held a Zoom meeting in August with Dr. Shawn Fitzgerald, Dean of the School of Counseling, Psychology, and Therapy, and CEO of Antioch University New England, based in Keene, NH. The purpose was to offer assistance from the Department of Education, if and when desired, to receive updates on campus and university happenings, and to learn of future plans.

Antioch University (graduate programs) separated from Antioch College (undergraduate programs) some years ago and each is now independently accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Antioch University (AU) has its home base in Yellow Springs, OH and offers campus, short residency, and online programs at its sites in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Seattle, and Keene, and via Antioch University online. The next HLC comprehensive evaluation for AU is scheduled for May 2025.

Originally operated as independent academic centers, the University is now organized by Schools (programs) headed by Deans. Programming is viewed from a system perspective with the delivery of programs at the several sites, although all programs are not offered at all sites. The organizational operation of the centers continues to evolve with fiscal, enrollment, and IPEDS information still available for each center.

Recently AU entered into a partnership, or coalition, with Otterbein University of Westerville, OH, which is close to Columbus, with Yellow Springs about 70 miles to the west. AU enrolls about 4000 graduate students, while Otterbein enrolls 2100 undergraduate students and 250 graduate students. This coalition has a shared mission to serve adult learners aligned with workforce development needs to better the "common good". The coalition or partnership has been approved by the HLC and the Ohio Department of Education. AU and Otterbein will retain their separate accreditation by the HLC. The coalition, or system, is open to adding members to the collaborative and seeks to build pathways for undergraduates to proceed smoothly to graduate level programs. AU will be the business unit of the system and will oversee the combined graduate programs of the two schools. This is an evolving organization that will likely change as new or re-aligned programs are offered at the AU sites. Programming at Keene is being reviewed with a visiting team from Otterbein expected in October 2023.

Enrollment at Keene has remained steady at about 1200, although the MBA has been phased out and the graduate programs in education are no longer licensure programs. Psychology and mental health counseling are well enrolled while environmental sciences are a challenge. The location of the Keene campus has changed over the years from its founding in Harrisville, to Keene locations on Lamson St, Roxbury St, and now at 40 Avon Street. The next planned move is to collocate on the campus of Keene State College with arrangements scheduled to be in place in 2024. The Avon Street property has been sold to the Keene based Southwestern Community Services (the regional CAP agency), and AU has leased back classroom and office space pending the move to KSC.

An organization chart for the Antioch – Otterbein coalition was filed with the Commission office, along with related documentation from the HLC and the Ohio Department of Education. Follow-up contacts failed to elicit the requested documentation.

**Hellenic American University:**

NECHE conducted an onsite visit to the University's campuses in Athens, Greece and Nashua, NH in October 2022 in conjunction with the University's 5<sup>th</sup> Year Interim Report. NECHE endorsed the positive recommendations of the visiting team in its May 31, 2023 letter to Hellenic American University. The University will file updated ARFE tables on December 1, 2023, and share this information with the Commission. NECHE affirmed its planned comprehensive visit to the University in the Fall of 2027. The University has requested, and the Director has approved, the setting its continuing degree approvals by the NH Higher Education Commission through December 31, 2028 to align with its NECHE accreditation time table.

HAU informed the Commission Office of its continued enhancement of its online offerings, including the transition to offering its PhD in Language and Communication fully online. The Director acknowledged receipt of this information.

NH Higher Education Commission staff discussed HAU membership in NC-SARA at the recent national conference held in Vermont in September. SARA membership remains closed for institutions that have their main campus operations outside the USA, even if they are regionally accredited, are incorporated in the USA, are a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation, and offer instruction here in the States. SARA has agreed to review its membership criteria in 2024 and HAU will provide the rationale for its membership at that time.

**Magdalen College:**

Magdalen College underwent a NECHE Comprehensive Review on March 20 – 23, 2023. The Director attended the exit report conducted by the team chair Fr. John Denning, President of Stonehill College. The team thanked President Messmore and the entire Magdalen community for their very transparent self-study. The chair shared both strength and challenge perceptions of the team.

Strengths included the high level of commitment to the mission and learning by the faculty, staff and students, that students felt extraordinarily supported by the faculty, that the board of trustees is solid, and that President Messmore has brought a focus on best practices and strategic planning to the institution.

Challenges included the operating deficit that the college continues to experience, an over reliance on donations to fund operations, sustainability of the governance model due to the overall size of the board of trustees and its over-involvement in day to day operations, assessment challenges related to curriculum, more investment needed in technology to aid research, and the overall small size of the student body.

The NECHE report noted strengths in governance, and academic programs, but continues on probation under the Standard on Institutional Resources because of uncertain enrollment and financial resources. Magdalen reported a much-improved fall 2023 enrollment of new students. NECHE is requiring periodic updates.

**Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences:**

In September 2023, MCPHS submitted the self-study report for the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education site visit scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Administrator Marks will attend the exit interview portion of the site visit, with time and date to be determined.

## **New England Aeronautical Institute (NEAI):**

The NEAI gained approval from the NH Higher Education Commission in February 2023 to operate as a postsecondary institution of higher education, offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation through June 30, 2026. That approval came with three expectations for continued development, with a progress report due on August 31, 2023, and annual reports beginning on December 31, 2023.

- A demonstration to Commission representatives of the continued enhancements and functionality of the website and its related instructional and student administrative services components.
- Evidence of results of the pilot testing of two courses of the online instructional system with students and faculty planned for late spring and summer 2023.
- Apprise the Commission of the status and progress of NEAI initiatives to receive degree granting authority from the New Hampshire General Court.

NEAI filed their progress report, which is summarized below.

The institution has secured its website address as [www.neai.aero](http://www.neai.aero) and is using the Microsoft Office 365 Platform as its multi-purpose LMS for administrative and instructional purposes. The virtual learning environment (VLE) has two portals, one for students and one for faculty/administrators. Representatives of NEAI conducted a virtual demonstration for Commission staff on September 28, 2023. The website has separate Zones for Students and Faculty for ease of use and access to appropriate information and materials. Site improvements for instructional functionality and ease of administrative use continue.

Two four-credit introductory aviation courses were pilot tested engaging 5 students and 5 different faculty members. The courses are delivered with asynchronous instruction over a 10-week term. Orientation and training using institutional course structures and content was provided to the faculty. Students, 3 female, 2 male, ranged in age from 25 to 45, were of different nationalities and had a range of experience in the aviation industry. All students completed the courses offered with the usual variation in academic performance. Students were asked for periodic feedback as well as an end of course evaluation. Mid-course adjustments of content and delivery were made, and the students urged more user-friendly functionality.

NEAI was granted the authority to grant degrees by the General Court of the State of New Hampshire with the adoption of SB 24 in the Spring of 2023. This was signed into law by Governor Sununu on June 1, 2023.

The exact narrative of the Bill was as follows: **“New England Aeronautical Institute is hereby authorized to confer degrees upon its graduates, subject to the authority of the higher education commission under RSA 21-N:8-a. The degrees shall be specified by the higher education commission as provided in RSA 292:8-h, III.”**

NEAI is moving its initial instructional term to February 2024 to allow for more deliberate advertising and marketing efforts for Fall 2023, including attendance at trade fairs and social media. While using the Microsoft Office 365 platform for all its administrative and instructional functions, it is exploring the efficacy of Brightspace at its instructional LMS in the future. NEAI hopes to enroll some 15 students in its first instructional term in February 2023.

The Institute will file its next progress report by December 31, 2023.

## **New England College:**

Director Appleby, Dr. Marks, and Dr. Gustafson visited the NEC campus in Henniker in late July to meet with President Lesperance. This was one of a series of visits with institutional leaders to receive updates on academic programming and to explore ways in which the Commission Office can be supportive of institutional initiatives.

Dr. Lesperance shared a positive outlook for the College with the largest incoming enrollment since the Covid-19 disruption. The planned addition of football to the athletic program has been well received and enables the College to enroll students who are looking for a collegiate football experience.

The new Clinical-Cooperative BS in Nursing program is off to a good start. The second academically strong cohort of more than 100 will enroll in Fall 2023.

The planned collaborative programs of RN to BSN, and BS programs in cybersecurity and forensic accounting with the Dallas, TX Community Colleges never really got off the ground and is being phased out. While the initial hybrid model showed promise, the Covid-19 pandemic repeatedly stalled implementation, and in the end the Dallas Colleges decided to conduct the programs on their own. NEC will formally notify the Commission and NECHE that this collaboration is ending. Likewise, the College is pulling back from an experimental 3-year bachelor's degree program with a 100-credit hour curriculum. This pilot program, which involved about a dozen colleges and universities nationwide, has had difficulty in gaining approval from the respective regional accreditation associations. Recently the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities approved a 3-year bachelor's program for BYU – Idaho/Ensign College, so this type of program will have the opportunity for experimentation there. The BYU programs are online programs.

The College has moved its BFA programs from its Manchester location to the main campus in Henniker, which will now unite its art and design programs in a new Art Village as the Institute of Art & Design and New England College.

Some of the real estate in Manchester will be sold, but the College will retain the French Hall location on Lowell Street. The College will maintain a presence in Manchester by offering credit-bearing courses, community education programs, gallery exhibitions, and potential K-12 partnerships leading to scholarship support for art studies. A press release in early September confirmed educational and cultural activities for Fall 2023 at French Hall in Manchester.

The College noted that there are several other graduate programs under consideration, as are other strategically related decisions, some of which would require Commission and NECHE review.

President Lesperance mentioned the value of having specific time available to meet with other college/university presidents to share experiences and perspectives. Perhaps the NHCUC and the Commission could be helpful in this regard. He also urged discussions on how higher education leaders could be more active in making a strong case for higher education in direct conversations with legislators. Finally, Director Appleby noted the availability of charter school funding which might support collaborative initiatives in the arts in Manchester.

NECHE has scheduled its comprehensive evaluation visit for April 7-10, 2024. The Commission will have an observer present for the evaluation.

#### **Rivier University:**

Rivier University submitted the 2023 Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) self-study report in preparation for the on-site visit scheduled from October 24<sup>th</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>. Administrator Marks will attend the exit interview, with time and date to be determined.

#### **Saint Anselm College:**

The College is in the process of rescheduling a review of proposed MAT degree with New Hampshire educator licensure options in 11 areas based on additional work to align the certification requirements to professional educator standards (Ed 505.03) adopted on July 13, 2023 after State Board of Education approval. Certification options include:

- Chemistry Teacher (7-12)
- Computer Science Educator
- English Language Arts Teacher (7-12)

- Life Science Teacher (7-12)
- Physics Teacher (7-12)
- Mathematics Teacher (Upper Level)
- Music Teacher (K-12)
- Social Studies Teacher (5-12)
- Visual Arts Teacher
- World Language Teacher – French
- World Language Teacher – Spanish

Specific dates have not been amended on the previous memorandum of understanding, but the degree and licensure options are tentatively scheduled for review in spring 2024.

The BA/MA in C&CJ is in its second year of operations. There is continued interest in the program with a second-year cohort of 15 students. The program now offers thesis and professional tracks, and courses in online (synchronous and asynchronous) delivery to meet student preferences. Enrollments have exceeded initial expectations and financial records indicate positive results for both years of the program. Detailed information regarding student demographics, academic performance, and student research and internship interests were provided. There were some curricular modifications with the syllabi provided for additional courses in Crime Mapping and Crime Typologies Seminar in the war on drugs. The full and part-time faculty are unchanged, and plans call for an additional faculty position in year three. The program content and delivery continues to evolve to meet the needs of the varied lives of graduate students. Discussions are underway to design an entry pathway for those who are not alumni of the College's C&CJ undergraduate degree program.

The M.Ed. which offers licensure in General Special Education (K-12), and High Leverage Practices (HLP) in Special Education entered its first cohort class of three students in 2022. This program was initially approved through December 31, 2024 by the Commission in October 2021. The program was subsequently approved by the NH State Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Council for Teacher Education. NECHE has also reviewed and endorsed the program as part of the College's 2021 application for a Substantive Change.

The report included details regarding curricular changes and the CVs of the full and part-time faculty teaching in the program. The number of credits for the degree has now been set at 37. The online courses are delivered primarily during the summer with internships being during the school year. Provisions have been made for the admission St. Anselm alumni and non-alumni, and for part-time and full-time enrollment. The initial cohort of students did not meet expectations, but the program is on track for stronger enrollments in 2023.

**Signum University:**

Signum University continued its journey to achieve accreditation from the Distance Education Accreditation Commission (DEAC). This remains a strategic goal of critical importance as it will enable Signum to be approved for membership in NC-SARA, which will open significant student enrollment opportunities for the online institution.

The quest for DEAC accreditation has been a multi-year effort including the submission of several self-study evaluation reports (SERs), consultations with DEAC staff, and online meetings for successive DEAC evaluations of these SERs. The DEAC accreditation process is quite prescriptive with specified policies, procedures, and documentary evidence related to the 12 Standards for Accreditation noted below.

1. INSTITUTIONAL MISSION
2. INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING
3. PROGRAM OUTCOMES, CURRICULA, AND MATERIALS
4. EDUCATIONAL AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
5. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND SATISFACTION

6. ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS
7. ADVERTISING, PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE, AND RECRUITMENT PERSONNEL
8. ADMISSION PRACTICES AND ENROLLMENT AGREEMENTS
9. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES, CANCELLATIONS, AND REFUND POLICIES
10. INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE
11. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
12. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, RECORD PROTECTION AND RETENTION

The final Signum SER was 266 pages in length, plus 41 exhibits of one or more documents. Additional documentation was provided to the evaluation team prior to the onsite visit, and more was requested during the site visit. DEAC assembled a site evaluation team of five members; a chair who focused on organization and governance, and three individuals to focus on the Educational, Business, and Language and Literature Standards, and a staff member from the DEAC Association office. The evaluation team was highly focused on each element of the 12 Standards, and pursued areas of significance within each Standard. The identification of elements needing attention was specific and detailed, thus giving the Signum team clearly understood guidance on expectations for additional improvements.

The team chair and the DEAC staff member gave the timeline for the team evaluation report, the process for the institution's response, and the range of actions available to the DEAC Commission when it meets in January 2024. The chair noted that the University could begin immediately to address many of the team's anticipated findings as these were made clear during the site discussions. As a follow-up to the evaluation, Dr. Gustafson provided a detailed analysis of the team's assessment of items requiring attention in the institutional response to DEAC.

Following the onsite evaluation, NH Commission staff met with the president and academic dean of Signum to offer assistance to the University in fashioning its response to the DEAC team's recommendations.

### **Upper Valley Educators Institute**

Upper Valley Educators Institute is currently approved to offer Master of Education concentrations in the following:

- Instructional Practice
- Literacy Instructional Leadership
- Literacy Teaching
- School Leadership
- Teacher Leadership

The degree options are approved with an expiration of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 with annual reporting due each year by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, the Commission has requested receipt of all correspondence to and from the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) regarding UVEI's candidacy status, and all correspondence from the NHED Council for Teacher Education (CTE) pertaining to teacher and administrator certification/licensure programs. UVEI is currently in Candidacy status and making progress towards NECHE accreditation.

President Page Tompkins attended the NECHE meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>, and is awaiting receipt of an official letter outlining findings from the spring site visit. The letter will be forwarded to the Commission for review. While specific timeline information may be outlined in the NECHE letter, President Tompkins has outlined the tentative dates for accreditation cycle activity:

- October 2024 – Submission of the self-study to NECHE
- Spring 2025 – NECHE site visit
- Summer/Fall 2025 – NECHE accreditation decision (via commission vote)

## Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

### **National University (Formerly Northcentral University):**

Northcentral University is an online institution founded in 1996 and based in La Jolla, CA. It was initially a for-profit entity but became an affiliate of the not-for-profit National University System, based in San Diego, CA in 2019. The system now includes Northcentral University, National University, and the City University of Seattle. Recently these entities formally merged into a single corporation, now called National University, which serves about 30,000 students. The Western Association of Senior Schools and Colleges approved the merger, effective June 30, 2022. There is a prominent tab on the website that explains the merger and that the Northcentral name will eventually disappear.

Northcentral University is accredited by the Western Association of Senior Schools and Colleges (WASC). Its business programs are accredited by ACBSP, and its marriage and family programs by the American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (COAMFTE). The University offers degree programs at the bachelor, master, and doctoral levels in business, education, psychology, technical management, and marriage and family therapy. Programs are delivered completely online requiring no residency using a unique one-on-one teaching format, which offers weekly starts for students. The University is approved to offer Title IV federal financial aid. Faculty are appropriately experienced and qualified, and curricular structures and content have met accreditation standards.

National University has applied for recertification of 18 programs that were previously approved. The University was granted Administrative Approval by the Director for the following programs. This was based on a renewal of the Commission's earlier approval, with no specific concerns or stipulations. Extensive documentation on curriculum was provided, with no faculty changes and no change in accreditation status. These are primarily online programs that may have clinical, practicum, or internships in New Hampshire.

- **Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education**
- **Bachelor of Science in Public Health**
- **Master of Healthcare Administration**
- **Master of Public Health**
- **Master of Social Work**
- **Master of Arts in Sport & Performance Psychology w/ Applied Mental and Theoretical Performance**
- **Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis**
- **Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling**
- **Master of Science in Educational Psychology**
- **Master of Science in Forensic Psychology**
- **Master of Science in Health Psychology**
- **Master of Science in Industrial Organizational Psychology**
- **Master of Science in Sport Psychology**
- **Juris Doctor**
- **Doctorate of Marriage and Family Therapy**
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership**
- **Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy**
- **Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology**

**The Director granted Administrative Approval for these 18 degree programs through June 30, 2025, with annual reports due each year by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### **University of Southern California:**

The University of Southern California, based in Los Angeles, is the oldest private research university in California. The University enrolls 21,000 undergraduate students and 28,000 in graduate and professional programs. Its operating

budget is in the \$5B range and its endowment is \$8B. The cost of its graduate/professional programs is in the range of \$2,100 – \$2,400 per credit hour. The University is accredited by the WASC, and its academic programs are accredited by appropriate accreditation commissions, and are aligned with state or national licensure regulations.

The WASC noted that USC has “faced a series of serious, multi-faceted integrity, legal, and ethical challenges in recent years that raised questions about institutional responsibilities and oversight. These difficulties resulted in changes in board governance and senior leadership, and the launch of an extensive “Culture Journey” to identify institutional values, study the alignment between actions and values, and improve procedures, policies and practices associated with the problems. The Commission appreciated learning about the concrete steps USC has undertaken to improve its institutional accountability, culture, and systems.” WASC is requiring an interim report addressing these matters on November 1, 2025.

The University applied for approval of 13 programs that were previously approved, and updated approval for its CWSE accredited MSW program, and new approvals for its 32 credit hour Master of Science in Applied Technology and Aging (MSATA) and its 60 credit hour Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy (MSMFT) programs. The MSMFT program includes 3000 clinical hours, which is required for California licensure. The MSW is fully online, the MSATA is offered onsite and online, and the MSMFT is onsite only.

This was largely a renewal of the Commission’s earlier approval, except as noted above. Extensive documentation on curriculum, faculty and accreditation status accompanied the application.

- **Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)**
- **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 (MESOC)**
- **Master of Social Work (MSW)**
- **Master of Public Health (MPH)**
- **Master of Public Administration (MPA)**
- **Master of Applied Psychology (MSAP)**
- **Master of Science in Applied Technology and Aging (MSATA)**
- **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)**
- **Master of Science in Gerontology (MSG)**
- **Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy (MSMFT)**
- **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)**

**The Director granted Administrative Approval for the 13<sup>th</sup> programs, with requirement of annual reports due each year no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **University of St. Augustine:**

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences was founded in 1979, is based in San Marcos, CA, 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 the Western Association of Senior Colleges Commission (WSCUC) through 2027. The University is a private, for-profit corporation owned by Atlas Partners, a private equity firm.

The University’s programs are offered mostly online (85%) with students (5,200, 70/30 Female/Male) 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 has 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 University of St. Augustine has applied for recertification of 7 programs that were previously approved. The University was granted Administrative Approval by the Director for the following programs. This was based on a renewal of the Commission's earlier approval, with no specific concerns or stipulations. Extensive documentation on curriculum was provided, with no faculty changes and no change in accreditation status. These are primarily online programs that may have clinical, practicum, or internships in New Hampshire. Approvals are through June 30, 2025, with the requirement of annual reports.

- **Master of Occupational Therapy**
- **Master of Science in Nursing**
- **Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice**
- **Doctor of Occupational Therapy**
- **Doctor of Physical Therapy**
- **Post-Graduate Nursing Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner**

**The Director granted Administrative Approval for these 7 program through June 30, 2025**

Approval through June 30, 2025 brings the University into alignment with all other currently approved programs that also have an expiration date of 2025:

- MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- MSN in Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (PG-PMHNP-PC)

#### **Walden University:**

Walden University offers its degree and certificate programs exclusively online, primarily to working professionals. The University has been regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1990 and has been approved by the NH Commission since 2016. Many of Walden's degree programs are also accredited by professional associations that oversee career related programs. Walden is a for-profit institution with its main offices in Baltimore, MD. It owned by Adtalem Global Education, Inc., which is incorporated in the state of Florida. This was a recent change of ownership that was approved by the HLC in April 2022. Walden provided copies of 10 affiliation agreements with New Hampshire entities, which served 14 NH students in summer 2022. The University serves approximately 7,000 undergraduate and 39,000 graduate students, is in good standing with its accreditors, and has a USDOE financial responsibility score of 2.69.

In 2022 the Director approved the following 15 degree and 4 post-master certificate programs through June 30, 2024.

- MS Clinical Psychology
- MS Forensic Psychology
- MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- MS in School Counseling
- MS Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Master of Social Work

- Ph.D. Counselor Education and Supervision
- Doctor of Nurse Practice
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Post-Master’s Certificates in:
  - a. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
  - b. Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
  - c. Family Nurse Practitioner
  - d. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Public Health
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- MS in Education - Educational Leadership and Administration - Principal Preparation
- Ed.S. Educational Leadership and Administration - Principal Preparation Program
- Master of Arts in Teaching-Special Education (K-Age 21)

Additionally, the Director granted Administrative Approval for the DrPH programs through June 30, 2025.

In August 2023, Walden University submitted for review six specializations under the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Executive Leadership
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

This program, and others in public health, is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. The University submitted documentation of notification/approval of specializations from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

**The Director granted Administrative Approval for these 6 specializations through June 30, 2025, aligned with approval of the DNP program, with annual reports due each December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

In September 2023, Walden University submitted for review three additional degree programs:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Studies (BS ECS)
- Master of Science in Early Childhood Studies (MS ECS)

The University submitted all necessary documentation noting approval of these degrees by the regional accrediting body.

**The Director granted Administrative Approval for these 3 degree programs through June 30, 2025, aligned with approval of the DNP program, with annual reports due each December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Submitted by Laura A. Stoneking

The Bureau of Educator Preparation and Higher Education oversees all NH educator preparation program reviews, approvals and ensures that all educator preparation programs meet minimum requirements leading to quality preparation programs that lead to educator licensure. Through the Council for Teacher Education (CTE), representatives coordinate, review and advise the NH State Board of Education of NH PEPPs.

Effective 9/15/2023, most administrative Ed 600 rules were amended or updated after input from the Council for Teacher Education, Public Comment, State Board of Education input and feedback from the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR).

**Below are some of the activities the CTE has accomplished from January 2023, through September 2023:**

NH PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS with APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS		
Franklin Pierce University	CONDITIONAL APPROVAL	Conditional Approval (7) through <b>10/31/2023</b> Priority Progress Report received <b>1/12/2023</b> on unmet standards
	5/11/23 State Board IN PROCESS	Secondary Progress Report through a “focused review” on all unmet standards by 5/30/2025 State Board has requested an update in May 2024 on updates in continuity of leadership; systems in place; any changes to programming; and the working leadership of the PEPP.
New England College	FULL APPROVAL	Full Approval (8) PEPPs through <b>8/30/2027</b> Full approval (1) new PEPP through <b>8/30/2026</b>
Rivier University	FULL APPROVAL	Full approval (15) PEPPs through <b>12/30/2026</b>
	SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE	Governance Changes: reorganized DEC into 2 separate divisions- Div. of Education and Div. of Counseling
Saint Anselm College	NEW REVIEW IN PROCESS extended/continued second time.	Option 3 Review (11) PEPPs; new MAT degree; November 14-16, 2022, review extended second time; <i>*Continued Technical Assistance regarding Ed 500 and Ed 600 requirements, PEPP review process; second MOU addendum to be completed</i>
	IN PROCESS	Option 1 Review (1) MEd/SpEd
	FULL APPROVAL	Full approval (13) undergraduate PEPPs through <b>8/30/2028</b> Full Approval (1) – new Special Education; new M.Ed. through <b>12/31/2024</b>
Southern New Hampshire University	IN PROCESS	Option 4 Review (CAEP Accreditation) request for Initial PEPPs (9); March 27-29, 2023, review held; awaiting CAEP report.
	IN PROCESS	Option 1 State Review ~ Advanced (Superintendent) PEPPs review scheduled for <b>11/2-3/2023</b>
	FULL APPROVAL	Full Approval (12) through <b>3/30/2024</b>
Upper Valley Educators Institute	FULL APPROVAL	Full Approval (20); licensure only PEPPs through <b>8/30/2029</b>
NH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS with APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS		
Keene State College	FULL APPROVAL	Full Approval - (16) <b>KSC</b> PEPPs through <b>2/28/2023</b> Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) approved
	IN PROCESS	Option 1: NEW Special Education Administrator proposal
NHTI	FULL APPROVAL	Full Approval (11) PEPPs through <b>2/27/2025</b>
Plymouth State College	FULL APPROVAL	Extension of Full Approval (10) PEPPs through <b>3/31/2026</b> Moving up of Full Approval (3) PEPPs through <b>3/31/2026</b> Elimination of (6) PEPPs <b>12/31/2022</b> ; (3) PEPPs <b>12/31/2024</b>
	SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE	CAEP withdrawal – effective <b>12/31/2024</b>
UNH: Manchester	FULL APPROVAL MERGE w/ UNH	Full Approval (12) PEPPs through <b>8/30/2028</b> Full Approval (1) new PEPP (Life Science) through <b>12/31/2025</b> Elimination of (1) PEPP <b>3/31/2024</b> ; *Officially merged with UNH.

<b>College of Professional Studies</b>	SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE	(TEAC) CAEP withdrawal effective <b>7/1/2023</b>
<b>University of New Hampshire</b>	FULL APPROVAL	Full Approval (29) through <b>8/30/2027</b>
	IN PROCESS*	*The State Board of Education <b>8/2023</b> per SBE and UNH agreement; review of (5) for September 15-21, 2024, review; NHED awaiting application

NH has eleven institutions of higher education with offering educator programs that prepare NH educators through approved professional educator preparation programs (PEPPs).

Currently, there are:

- **150** Fully Approved, and
- **7** Conditionally Approved PEPPs.

IHE	FPU	NEC	RIV	St. A	SNHU	UVEI		KSC	NHTI	PSU	UNH-CPS	UNH
<b>FULL approval</b>	--	9	15	14	10	20		16	11	13	13	29
<b>CONDITIONAL approval</b>	7	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--	--
<i>*Elimination</i>	--	<i>1 Full 1 Cond.</i>	--	--	<i>3 Full</i>	--		--	--	<i>4 Full</i>	<i>1 Full</i>	--

AUNE **ALL PEPPS CLOSED** effective 7/27/2023

*PEPPs are available within a bachelor's degree, master's degree, post-master's degree and/or a licensure only pathway/level.*

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Laura A. Stoneking, Administrator at 603.271.4196 or via e-mail at [Laura.A.Stoneking@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Laura.A.Stoneking@doe.nh.gov).

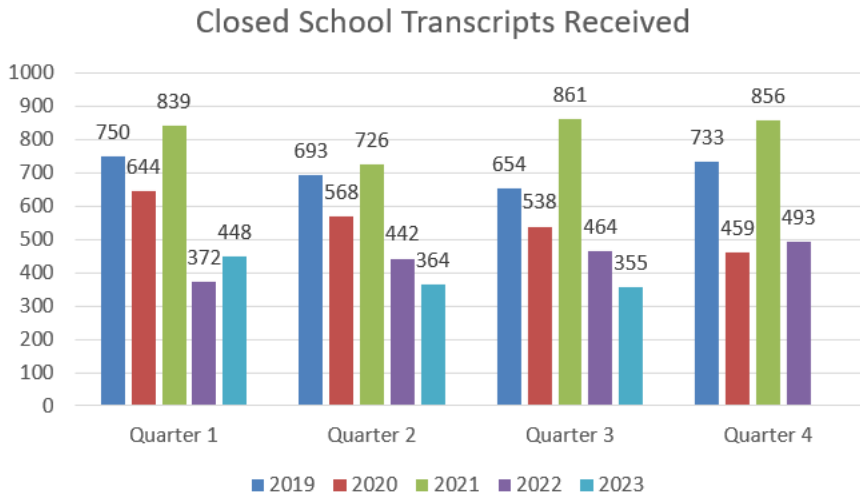
## CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Submitted by Pat Moquin

From July 1, 2023, until August 31, 2023 (FY 2024), 218 college/university and 35 career school transcript requests were received, generating a total revenue of \$5,060. During the same period in the prior fiscal year (FY 2023), a total of 285 college/university and 36 career school transcript requests were received, generating a total revenue of \$6,420.

Please note – due to the pandemic, fees were suspended for FY21 resulting in a significant increase in transcript requests for the year.

Graphed numbers for 5-year comparison:



## OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOLS LICENSING (OCSL)

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman

Since the last report in May 2023, OCSL has continued in its duties. Most correspondence between the office and schools has continued to remain virtual via online meetings, phone calls and email. Schools continue to increase in-person learning and few others remain online or hybrid learning models.

We are working with the career schools to have regular site visits to establish a more personable relationship. Some of the schools are still navigating how to merge in-person with online learning. Many have been able to find a new business model and report being able to provide both models to meet the needs of many more students. Some are starting to look more closely at the bill that was signed by the Governor, SB148, specifically Part IV, that went into effect October 9, 2021. This new exemption has been added to RSA 188-G:1, II (m) Entities that have annual gross tuition of \$100,000 or less. As a result, several more schools falling into this category have already withdrawn, while others have opted to remain licensed, as certain tuition programs rely on being licensed.

Schools currently licensed: 46

### Recent Visit Activity

Since May, we have so far conducted 6 more site visits to schools. We are currently pending more. We can report that all of the schools visited to date are energetic locations and that their educators are passionate about teaching their trades.

- Life Safety Institute-Colebrook training location
- Life Safety Institute-Hanover training location

- LNA Health Careers, LLC-New London training location
- The Whole Pet Grooming Academy-new Portsmouth address
- New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership-prospective school
- Prospective school in Salem -to be later named

Recent Exemption Approvals/Pending.

- Sharing Yoga
- Becker Professional Education

Non-Licensed Career Schools Seeking Exemption:

- Team Select Home Care

Recent Career School Closures/Pending:

- None

Recent Career School seeking a license:

- Joshua Career Institute (pending)

Below are some of the other activities that were conducted by the OCSL team since the last Commission meeting in May 2023.

Renewed the licenses and license continuance of the following schools:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ○ Advanced Technical Schooling, LLC            | ○ C1M Photography               |
| ○ Concord Hospital Surgical Technology Program | ○ Harmony Health Care Institute |
| ○ International Academy of Wildlife Art        | ○ John Mason Institute          |
| ○ Life Safety Institute, LLC                   | ○ LNA Health Careers, LLC       |
| ○ New England EMS Institute Elliot Hospital    | ○ Prison Yoga Project           |
| ○ Whole Pet Grooming Academy                   |                                 |

Currently reviewing license renewal/annual filing applications for the following schools:

- AllSkilled

Upcoming Annual/Renewals:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ○ American Academy of Health and Beauty | ○ Dartmouth-Hitchcock Workforce Readiness |
| ○ The Language Bank                     |   |

New School Applications:

- New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership-prospective school
- Prospective school in Salem, to be named later
- Prospective school in Portsmouth area, to be named later

Completed/Pending the closure of the following schools:

- None currently

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



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner

Christine M. Brennan  
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
25 Hall Street  
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TEL. (603) 271-3495

September 27, 2023

*(sent via electronic mail)*

Lawrence M. Schall, President  
([lschall@neche.org](mailto:lschall@neche.org))  
New England Commission of Higher Education  
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210  
Wakefield, MA 01880

Dear Dr. Schall and Commissioners:

This past June, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) gave approval to Brigham Young University - Idaho to offer 90-credit bachelor's degrees. BYU-Idaho will offer these 90-credit Bachelor of Applied Sciences (B.A.S.) degrees in applied business management, family and human services, software development, applied health, and professional studies.

To reduce the minimum number of credits, BYU-Idaho has simply eliminated the electives from the 120-credit degrees. According to Boyd Baggett, director of institutional effectiveness and accreditation at BYU-Idaho, "we found ourselves in this awkward situation of saying, 'All right, you've completed everything that's required for the degree, except you need another 30 credits roughly of whatever classes you want.' And it seems so disingenuous, I think, to say that to this working father or working mother that's trying to take care of their families and put food on the table." ([source: Inside Higher Ed](#))

In an era where the costs of college--as well as student indebtedness--continue to rise and more and more Americans question the value proposition of a college degree, these 90-credit degrees will decrease the cost and time commitment of students by a full 25% for the exact same program outcomes. As NWCCU President Sonny Ramaswamy recently told [PRI's The World](#): "Do we really need students to sit on their — pardon me, butts — in the classroom ... for four years? Or should it be based on learning outcomes?"

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It is my understanding that the model for BYU-Idaho's 90-credit degree is very similar to three-year degree proposals from both New England College and Merrimack College that NECHE apparently rejected prior to the approval of the BYU-Idaho program.

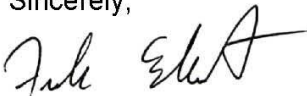
Schools accredited by NWCCU now have a pathway to develop and implement baccalaureate programs that offer significant savings and value to prospective students. If NECHE continues to refuse to consider similar reforms, schools in the entire New England region will fall behind their competitors in other parts of the country. What's more, the citizens and business and civic communities of New England will suffer because they will not have access to this important innovation.

Since the seventeenth-century origins of higher education in North America, New England has been a leader and innovator. New Hampshire's K-12 system is an education leader recognizing proficiency over seat-time Carnegie units. By refusing to approve three-year degrees, NECHE's actions threaten to serve as a drag on regional innovation and allow other areas of the country to offer substantive solutions to long-term and difficult problems.

We ask that NECHE reconsider New England College and Merrimack College's three-year degree proposals and provide other NECHE institutions the opportunity to submit such proposals, without going outside the region for approval.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education