

VSBPE

Date: June 4, 2019

Discussion Item: Goddard's Contingency Teach-Out Plan

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE accept Goddard's contingency teach-out plan?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE accept Goddard's contingency teach-out plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Program Approval Committee directed the Office to request a contingency teach-out plan from Goddard because Goddard was placed on probation by their regional accreditor, the New England Commission of Higher Education, due to financial difficulties.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT: Goddard Teach-Out Plan

Goddard College

PLAINFIELD, VERMONT | PORT TOWNSEND & SEATTLE, WA

Preliminary Teach-out Plan May 2019

In accordance with the VSBPE policy N20: Programs that are choosing to or are mandated to close must provide the VSBPE with

A: Letter of Intent to close

B: Teach-Out Plan

C: Acknowledgements

Given that Goddard College is not choosing to close and that Goddard College has not been mandated to close, we will provide VSBPE with B: Teach-Out Plan.

Goddard College provided New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) with a preliminary teach-out plan August 2018. This plan addresses most of the required information and is submitted to VSBPE. The following addresses VSBPE Policy specifically:

Academic Program: Goddard College Education Program: BA and MA in Teacher Education with Licensure in a specific endorsement area

Number of Licensure candidates included in the plan as of May 2019: Eleven

Administrator responsible for the closing process: Program Director Kumari Patricia Younce, Registrar Annette Fitzgerald, and the Chief Academic Officer Steven James constitute the Admin Team that will oversee the process.

A timeline for informing candidates of the closing of the program: Licensure candidates, as will all Goddard students, shall be informed upon the College's Board of Trustees and the Senior Administration creation of a Teach-Out Protocol, after receiving official notice from the Accreditation Board.

Plans to provide candidates with timely and accurate information regarding their opportunities to meet all licensure requirements: Students in each program will receive the list of receiving institutions for their program of study and the protocol for identifying their choice, then how to make the special transfer.

Each candidate's individual plan with a timeline detailing when they are expected to complete all licensure requirements, including Praxis and the Level I licensure portfolio: Our candidates' progress through out program is being closely followed and documented through our electronic portfolio system and benchmark review sheets. We will provide the Agency of Education with all the necessary information upon official notice from the Accreditation Board.

Plan to redirect candidates who are not able to complete all licensure requirements within the timeframe: Please see the accompanying Goddard College Preliminary Teach-out Plan for details. Were accreditation to be withdrawn, an option would be for licensure candidates to complete their licensing process as part of a teach-out at the Goddard College campus in Plainfield, Vermont over two years as part of the phased closure of the school. All currently enrolled students would be able to complete their licensing process in the course of three semesters. Currently enrolled licensure candidates would also be offered alongside options to complete degrees at other institutions.

The date the program provider will cease recommending candidates for licensure: We will notify VSBPE upon official notice from the New England Commission of Higher Education regarding Goddard College's accreditation.

Goddard College
Preliminary Teach-Out Plan
August 2018

In accord with the New England Commission of Higher Education's (NECHE) *Policy on Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements*, Goddard College has prepared a preliminary teach-out plan that would be developed in full if "the Commission acts to withdraw, terminate, or suspend the accreditation of an institution"¹ or otherwise instructs the College to fully develop such a plan.

In approaching the development of a teach-out plan, Goddard College is guided by NECHE *Standards for Accreditation*; specifically, Standard 4.9:

Academic Programs: When programs are eliminated or program requirements are changed, the institution makes appropriate arrangements for enrolled students so that they may complete their education with a minimum of disruption.

Further, in consideration of both Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements for Goddard students, the College bases the creation of a preliminary teach-out plan on developing options for students guided by the following criteria which, taken together, would constitute the least amount of disruption for students:

- Most optimal curricular match
- Most optimal pedagogical match
- Most comparable modality
- Most comparable financial cost
- Most comparable geographic location.

Should the need arise to fully develop a teach-out options for Goddard College students, the College believes it would be in the interest of students to explore the possibility of a twofold teach-out model that would include teach-out agreements with other institutions as well as a two-year teach-out option at Goddard College that would occur as part of a phased closure of the College. The latter would be developed if there were sufficient student demand, sufficient College capacity, and NECHE approval.

Teach-Out Agreements

Teach-Out agreements with regionally accredited institutions would provide the most conventional manner for students to complete their degree programs. Given the diversity of academic programs at Goddard College and the degree offerings within each program, a large number of agreements would be required.

In addition to best addressing the criteria noted above, teach-out agreements would need to ensure students could complete their programs within the time frame originally planned with recognition of advanced standing and satisfaction of degree requirements completed by the student at the conclusion of their final semester at Goddard College.

¹ New England Commission of Higher Education, *Policy on Teach-Out Agreements and Teach-Out Plans*.

In consultation with Program Directors, the following institutions would be contacted in the event Goddard was required to codify teach-out agreements:

Undergraduate Program:

- SUNY Empire State
- Antioch University (online)
- Prescott College

Education & Licensure (BA and MA):

- Antioch University Seattle
- Antioch University New England
- St. Michael's College (for students seeking Vermont Teacher Licensure)

Psychology & Counseling (BA and MA):

- University at Albany (MPCAC Accreditation)
- Saybrook University
- Chicago School of Professional Psychology (CACREP Accreditation)

Goddard Graduate Institute:

- California Institute of Integral Studies
- Saybrook University
- Naropa University
- Green Mountain College
- Antioch University (Los Angeles)
- Fielding University
- SUNY Empire State

MFA in Creative Writing:

- Pacific University
- Antioch University Los Angeles
- Bennington College
- University of Southern Maine (Stonecoast)

MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts:

- California Institute of Integral Studies
- Vermont College of Fine Arts

Teach-Out at Goddard College

Were accreditation to be withdrawn, a less conventional but less disruptive option would be for students to complete their degrees as part of a teach-out at the Goddard College campus in Plainfield, Vermont over two years as part of the phased closure of the school. This option, if viable and desired by a sufficient number of students, would be offered in addition to options at other institutions so students would have multiple choices to complete their degrees. This option would be of most value to students with a short amount of work remaining to earn their degree.

A preliminary budget analysis indicates that this option may be fiscally viable in so far as the College would have no personnel or operating expenses in the following areas:

- Admissions
- Marketing
- Advancement
- Port Townsend Campus
- WGDR.

As more than 80% of Goddard students are enrolled in programs of four semesters or less, a teach-out at Goddard College may be the least disruptive option for students to complete their degree – and would only be offered alongside options to complete degrees at other institutions.

A teach-out at Goddard College would allow for a more orderly and gradual closure of the College which, in turn, would provide greater certainty to students and alumni about on-going access to academic records and official transcripts.

A proposal for a teach-out at Goddard College requires much more work in terms of further financial and academic analysis. This would be undertaken if NECHE places Goddard College on probation and approves a request to develop a proposal for this option. Additional approvals would be required from the US Department of Education² and the Vermont Agency of Education.

² 2017-2018 FSA Student Handbook, Volume 2, Chapter8, Sanctions and Closeouts.