

VSBPE

Date: June 9, 2020

Item: NVU-Lyndon Request for Program Approval Extension

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE extend Northern Vermont University-Lyndon's approval to recommend licensure for its Postbac and Secondary programs that are being taught out?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE extend Northern Vermont University-Lyndon's approval to recommend licensure for its Postbac and Secondary programs that are being taught out, with the addition of a requirement of a final review of the candidates' records by a representative of the Office to ensure all licensure requirements have been met prior to recommendation.

BACKGROUND: NVU-Lyndon last had a ROPA review in 2012. Due to the merger of Lyndon and Johnson, NVU requested an extension to their originally scheduled ROPA review in 2019 and was granted an additional six months by the VSBPE. After that was granted, NVU's education programs were not merged sufficiently to combine the review as had originally been planned, and so two separate reviews were scheduled. Due to the current pandemic, NVU-Lyndon's review was postponed from June 2020 to Oct. 2020. In other words, Lyndon's programs have not been reviewed in eight years- one year over the normal review cycle. NVU-L currently has one approved Teach-Out Plan, for their Secondary programs, and another Plan for their Postbac Elementary Education program is being presented to the Board at the same meeting as this request. Per the Teach-Out Plans, there are four current candidates in the Secondary program and one in the Postbac ELED program, although in the request for the extension, Nancy Reid states that there are now only two candidates in the Secondary program. The last date that NVU has approval to recommend the Secondary candidates is Dec. 31, 2022; the last date they are requesting to recommend their Postbac ELED candidate is Oct. 1, 2021, although the request letter from Nancy Reid indicates that all current candidates in both programs will be recommended by fall of 2021.

RATIONALE: We understand that it could be considered an undue burden on NVU-L to have to include evidence for those two programs in their ROPA review. We are also

aware that there has been a high level of faculty turnover and that there is a new licensure officer at NVU-L. The Teach-Out Plans show what requirements that each candidate has yet to complete, but not what they have completed up to this point. To ensure that candidates have met all licensure requirements prior to being recommended for the license, we suggest a review of the candidates' files and transcripts by a representative of the Office prior to their recommendation for licensure.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Letter from NVU-L requesting the program approval extension (below).

June 19,2020

Erik Remmers,
Chair VSBPE

Dear Erik,

I am currently working with NVU – Lyndon helping them prepare the IP for their upcoming ROPA visit. NVU-Lyndon has recently experienced a number of challenges; a significant transition in, and reduction of, faculty, serious resource constraints and a pandemic. I have been working with the Education Department since last fall and, as is often the case with a successful self study, we have made significant improvements in the programming, documents and evaluation systems. I writing you in hopes that the VSBPE will consider a proposal that I believe will serve the NVU- Lyndon students, the faculty and administration at NVU -Lyndon and will make the upcoming ROPA visit in October considerably easier.

We currently have two programs being taught out– the Graduate Program and the Secondary Education program. The Secondary Education (for which the VSBPE has already approved a Teach Out plan) currently has 2 students – one seeking a license in Secondary English and the other Secondary Science. Both will complete their academic work next semester (fall 2020) and will be student teaching in the spring of 2021. They are planning (per the Teach Out plan) to complete their portfolio in the summer of 2021 and be recommended for licensure by late summer or early fall (2021).

The second program is the Graduate Licensure program which has a Teach Out plan pending approval of the VSBPE. There is one student in this program and this student is seeking an Elementary Education license and intending to student teach in the spring. She should be recommended for licensure in the late summer or fall of 2021.

Our current ROPA approval will end in early October. We will continue to gather documentation and evidence needed for the Institutional Portfolio to support continued approval for these two programs which are being taught out if this request is denied. However we are asking for an extension of one year for the ability to recommend these three students for their respective licenses. The VSBPE approved Teach Out plans will guide their program of study.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Best,

Nancy Reid ROPA Consultant to NVU- Lyndon

