

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LEGAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 137 of Chapter 82 of the Laws of 1995, the New York State Board of Regents will hold a public hearing via Zoom Conferencing beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Public comment will be taken concerning the proposed Master Plan Amendment for D'Youville College permitting the College to offer a program leading to an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences Studies. A Master Plan Amendment is necessary because this would be the College's first Associate Degree program. See the attached abstract, prepared by D'Youville College, which describes the proposed program.

Please note the following:

1) Those wishing to present testimony at the January 13, 2021 public hearing:

Members of the public who wish to present public comment/testimony during the January 13, 2021 public hearing, **must register with the NYS Education Department by no later than Wednesday, January 6, 2021**, so that the Zoom Conferencing meeting number and password can be provided to you in advance of the hearing. To register to present testimony, please send an e-mail to ocueinfo@nysed.gov with "Registration: D'Youville College MPA Hearing" in the subject line. Your email should indicate that you wish to present testimony at the January 13, 2021, hearing and must provide your name, contact information – including email address and phone number, title and institution/organization affiliation (if applicable). Instructions for joining the hearing will be provided to you via the email address that you provide.

Persons presenting testimony at the January 13, 2021, are required to submit written testimony (not to exceed 10 pages, double-spaced, including attachments) no later than January 6, 2021), to ocueinfo@nysed.gov. During the Zoom hearing, persons who are providing public comment will be given five minutes to highlight/summarize their testimony and may be asked to respond to questions from the members of the NYS Board of Regents Hearing Panel. One representative per institution/organization is permitted to register and present testimony at the hearing.

2) Those wishing to submit written comments/testimony but not present testimony at the hearing:

Members of the public wishing to submit written comments/testimony but not present testimony at the January 13, 2021 hearing, may do so by submitting their written testimony (not to exceed 10 pages, double-spaced, including attachments) by email no later than January 6, 2021, to ocueinfo@nysed.gov with "Testimony only: D'Youville College MPA Hearing" in the subject line.

3) Those wishing to observe the January 13, 2021 public hearing:

Members of the public wishing to observe the January 13, 2021, public hearing may do so by accessing a live stream of the hearing at:

https://players.brightcove.net/2886492229001/default_default/index.html?videoId=6193797864001

No registration is necessary to observe the public hearing via live stream.

Attachment

ABSTRACT

D'Youville College proposes its first associate degree, an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Studies, to expand access and enhance equity of educational opportunity. The proposed program is designed to meet the unique needs of underserved high school graduates in Buffalo and will be offered in a cohort format with comprehensive academic and social support. The proposed AA program aligns with D'Youville's mission of service, and D'Youville's strategic plan priority of Expanding Educational Opportunity through new programs and community partnerships.

Prospective students for this program include Buffalo Public School graduates who are not well served by other higher education options due to barriers posed by the limited English language proficiency of the students and their families, insufficient academic preparation, financial hardship, and a lack of access to transportation. The D'Youville Associate of Arts program will serve students from nearby Buffalo Public high schools including Leonardo da Vinci PS 212 (located on D'Youville's campus), Lafayette, Riverside, and International Preparatory, which are in the three poorest zip codes (14213, 14207, 14201) out of the 81 zip codes in Western New York. The educational needs are made more compelling by the presence of large populations of new Americans and refugees among residents between the ages of 15 and 24.

The projected full-time enrollment in the Associate of Arts program during its first year is 15 students. Each entering cohort will be capped at 20 full-time students, with a projected total of 38 students by year 5, accounting for attrition or deceleration. Part-time students are not anticipated. Admissions requirements for this program align with the requirements for the institution overall (80 high school g.p.a. and 980 SAT/19 ACT), although standardized test scores are optional for the AA, and applications will be reviewed holistically to account for the unique circumstances of this population (e.g., English language proficiency, or periods without schooling due to family migration).

The Associate of Arts program can be offered within existing faculty, staff and space resources, including a dedicated classroom with adjacent communal study space and tutoring space. The program will be run with existing full- and part-time faculty, which is feasible with a student/faculty ratio of 11:1 and additional enrollment capacity in some academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences. A full-time recruitment and student support coordinator has already been hired. Existing support services at the college include a Learning Center with intensive English Language tutoring, along with tutoring support for other academic subjects, and 24/7 online tutoring at no cost to students. The Student Success Center offers a coordinated support team for each student with a professional academic advisor, a career coach, and a faculty mentor. In addition, a new advocacy center will open in fall 2019, along with a new Active Learning Center, funded by a competitive grant from Steelcase, at the intersection DaVinci high school lobby and the college.

This program will be offered in a cohort model, with students taking their courses together in a learning community with targeted wrap-around services. The curriculum includes at least 45 credits in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, complemented by courses that promote exploration of purpose and professions, and courses with computing and communication skills for the workplace. The Associate of Arts degree is flexible enough to provide students with clear pathways toward the baccalaureate degree through courses that count toward general education requirements of all existing D'Youville degree programs.

The Western New York region faces a current shortage of 3000 skilled workers in the WNY manufacturing sector, and comparable shortages of entry-level workers in the health, retail, technology, and finance sectors. These positions require solid academic preparation in reading, writing, critical thinking, math that the Associate in Arts will provide, thereby enabling AA graduates to move into these positions. D'Youville already offers 300 courses annually to DaVinci High School students, and the new Associate of Arts will allow a seamless and efficient transition into newly designed health professions pathways at D'Youville. The opportunity for electives and internships in students' 4th semester, along with guidance from the Office of

Career Engagement, will support AA graduates' seamless transition to further study or the work force. Students who complete their studies with an associate's degree may enter the work force more swiftly and with higher earning potential, with the option to return to D'Youville or another institution in the future to continue their studies to earn a bachelor's degree or beyond. This program offers additional value to the community by serving as an off ramp for degree completion for students in any academic program at D'Youville who are unable to continue their education for work, family or academic reasons.