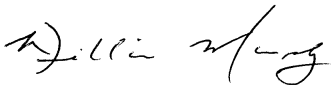




Deputy Commissioner
Office of Higher Education
518-486-3633
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April 15, 2022

To: Presidents/CEOs of NYS Colleges and Universities

From: William P. Murphy 

Subject: Extension of Distance Education Flexibility for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Recognizing that institutions of higher education continue to navigate the evolving conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic on behalf of the students that they serve, the NYS Education Department is extending the current distance education flexibility until the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. This extension permits institutions of higher education to continue to offer programs through distance education during the 2022-2023 academic year, without triggering the need to register those programs in the distance education format. Before the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, the Department will make a determination about possible permanent revisions to the distance education program requirements and definitions.

Institutions are reminded that, regardless of delivery modalities or formats, all academic programs offered by NYS degree granting institutions are required to meet all NYS program registration standards, including all regulatory requirements related to clinical and other experiential and laboratory program components. Offering clinical courses in a licensure-qualifying program in an alternative format requires prior approval. Institutions are further reminded of the necessity to continue to comply with all requirements, including but not limited to those concerning the offering of programs via distance education, established by their accrediting agencies, the U.S. Department of Education, and the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) for postsecondary distance education.

Questions related to programs that lead to professional licensure should be directed to: oppregs@nysed.gov

Questions related to all other programs, including those that lead to certification should be directed to: ocueinfo@nysed.gov

On behalf of the Board of Regents and State Education Department, thank you for your continued commitment to your students and communities.