



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** William P. Murphy *William Murphy*  
**SUBJECT:** Master Plan Amendment Application  
**DATE:** January 2, 2025  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Beth M...*

### SUMMARY

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed master plan amendment application?

#### **Reason for Consideration**

Required by State Statute (Education Law section 237).

#### **Proposed Handling**

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its January 2025 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

Not applicable.

#### **Background Information**

When a college or university seeks to expand its academic mission (e.g., by offering a degree at a new level of study or in a new disciplinary area, or establishing a branch campus), it must submit a master plan amendment application for review and approval by the Board of Regents. Depending upon the nature of the proposed programs that require the master plan amendment, the applications will be submitted to either the Department's Office of Higher Education or Office of the Professions. The Regents must approve an amendment to each institution's master plan before the institution can undertake the proposed activities.

An academic review of the proposed master plan amendment has been completed by the Office of Higher Education's Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE).

OCUE has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. If a charter amendment is also necessary (e.g., to establish a branch campus), it is indicated on the summary table (Attachment A), and the charter amendment is included in the Charter Applications item on the Full Board agenda.

**Related Regents Items**

Not applicable.

**Recommendation**

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the master plan amendment application on the attached summary table (Attachment A).

**Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the proposed program, and the institution will proceed to enroll students.

**Master Plan Amendment Summary Table**

<b>Name of Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description of Master Plan Amendment</b>
St. Thomas Aquinas College	Sparkill, NY	<p>Authorization to offer a program in Exercise Science leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree award.</p> <p>A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the institution's first master's level program in the discipline of the Health Professions.</p> <p>A charter amendment is required and is included in the Charter Applications item on the Full Board Agenda.</p>