



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: David H. Hamilton *David H. Hamilton*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding the Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) Degree as a Registered Degree in New York State

DATE: January 30, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Don M. B.* *Bellotti*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents amend sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents relating to the authorization of degrees by adding a Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) degree as a registered degree in New York State?

Reason for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment will be submitted to the Full Board for Adoption as a permanent rule at the February 2025 meeting of the Board of Regents. A copy of the proposed rule (Attachment A) is attached.

Procedural History

The proposed amendment was presented to the Professional Practice Committee for discussion at the October 2024 meeting of the Board of Regents. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on October 23, 2024, for a 60-day public comment period.

Following publication in the State Register, the Department received no comments on the proposed amendment. Therefore, an Assessment of Public Comment is not required and no changes to the proposed amendment are needed. If adopted at the February 2025 meeting, a Notice of Adoption will be published in the State Register on

February 26, 2025. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The D.Ac. degree is recognized by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) and is an authorized degree in the following ten (10) states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington. A New York State degree-granting institution requested the ability to offer an entry-level professional program in acupuncture leading to a D.Ac. degree. Adding this new degree will benefit students in this State by affording them the opportunity to earn a licensure-qualifying doctoral degree in acupuncture. D.Ac. programs typically focus on evidence-based practice and provide in-depth and advanced training in acupuncture techniques, diagnosis, and treatment strategies. This higher-level of expertise can enhance graduates' ability to effectively address complex cases and offer more specialized treatments.

Because the D.Ac. degree would be a new degree in New York State, it is necessary to amend Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents relating to requirements for earned degrees and registered degrees under Title VIII of the Education Law. Adopting the proposed rule would make this degree award available for all New York State degree-institutions.

The proposed rule was shared with the New York State Board for Acupuncture (State Acupuncture Board), which supports the proposed addition of the D.Ac. degree. Additionally, the Department's Professional Program Review Office sent a memo to the educational institutions offering acupuncture programs in this State and the professional association(s) representing acupuncture to solicit comments from them on the proposal to add the D.Ac. degree in New York State. No institution objected to the proposal.

Related Regents Items

[October 2024: Proposed Amendment of Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding the Doctor of Acupuncture \(D.Ac.\) Degree as a Registered Degree in New York State](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1024ppcd1.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1024ppcd1.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents be amended, as submitted, effective February 26, 2025.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the February 2025 Regents meeting, the proposed rule will become effective as a permanent rule on February 26, 2025.

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Pursuant to sections 207, 210, 214, 215, 218, 224, and 305 of the Education Law.

1. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of section 3.47 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is amended to read as follows:

(2) Professional degrees. Graduate professional degree programs must be comprised of advanced studies in professional or vocational fields. While they may have strong theoretical underpinnings, they must have as their primary purpose knowledge for application in professional practice. Master's degree programs of this type are primarily terminal in nature. They may serve as preparation for advanced studies at the doctoral level, but they shall not be designed primarily for this purpose. The doctorate in such studies is likewise practical, insofar as it prepares the student to train or supervise others in the field, to discover new knowledge that has practical application in the field, or to prepare the student for a life of practice in the student's particular profession. Only the following degrees may be conferred upon the completion of a professionally oriented graduate program:

Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.)

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

-----Engineer (-- -- E.)

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Master of Comparative Jurisprudence (M.C.J.)

Master of Comparative Law (M.C.L.)

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Master of Education (Ed.M. or M.Ed.)

Master of Engineering (M.E.)

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)

Master of Food Science (M.F.S.)

Master of Forestry (M.F.)

Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.)

Master of Hebrew Literature (M.H.L.)

Master of Industrial and Labor Relations (M.I.L.R.)

Master of Industrial Design (M.I.D.)

Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.)

Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.)

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Master of Library Science (M.L.S.)

Master of Management in Hospitality (M.M.H.)

Master of Music (Mus.M.)

Master of Nutritional Science (M.N.S.)

Master of Physical Therapy (M.P.T.)

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Master of Regional Planning (M.R.P.)

Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)

Master of Sacred Music (S.M.M.)

Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)

Master of Science for Teachers (M.S.T.)

Master of Science in Education (M.S. in Ed.)

Master of Science in Pharmacy (M.S. in Pharm.)

Master of Social Science (M.S.Sc.)

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.)

Master of Theology (Th.M.)

Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.)

Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.)

Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (D.A.O.M)

Doctor of Arts (D.A.)

Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.)

Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.)

Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.)

Doctor of Engineering Science (Eng.Sc.D.)

Doctor of Hebrew Literature (D.H.L.)

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)

Doctor of Law (J.D.)

Doctor of Library Science (L.S.D.)

Doctor of Medical Science (Med. Sc.D.)

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.)
Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)
Doctor of Nursing Science (D.N.S.)
Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)
Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.)
Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
Doctor of Professional Studies (D.P.S.)
Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)
Doctor of Public Administration (D.P.A.)
Doctor of Public Health (D.P.H.)
Doctor of Religious Education (D.R.E.)
Doctor of Sacred Music (S.M.D.)
Doctor of Science in Veterinary Medicine (D.Sc. in V.M.)
Doctor of Social Science (D.S.Sc.)
Doctor of Social Welfare (D.S.W.)
Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)
Doctor of Theology (Th.D.)
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)

2. Paragraph (36) of subdivision (b) of section 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is amended to read as follows:

(36) Acupuncture:

Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.)

Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (D.A.O.M)