



## National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction *Bulletin*

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*“Translating noncollegiate learning into college credit recommendations while increasing access to Higher Education for working adults”*



### How Far Could You Go...

If you're like many adults, you've worked hard to get where you are today. You recognize that in order to move up the corporate ladder or to work in a

different field, you need to earn or advance your college degree. One college that has helped thousands of working adults gain the skills and education required to succeed in today's world for more than 30 years is Excelsior College.

Excelsior College is a private, nonprofit institution accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, providing a flexible and cost-effective means for working adults to demonstrate college-level competencies and earn respected college degrees by focusing on what they know, rather than where or how they learned it. Credit is earned through a variety of sources including Excelsior's own online courses and credit bearing exams (Excelsior College® Examinations), courses from other colleges and universities, certificate programs, and recognized college-level sources such as military and corporate training programs.

The college awards degrees in 34 programs: 31 at the associate and baccalaureate levels in business, liberal arts, nursing and technology, plus a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, a Master of Science in nursing, and a Master of Business Administration. The college also offers certificate programs in Entrepreneurship, Homeland Security, End of Life Care, Health Care Informatics and Nursing Management. Its 53 credit-bearing examinations are used by students to earn degrees at Excelsior and by universities and professional associations in satisfaction of various degree, credential, and knowledge requirements.

Excelsior also provides many online study services to help students achieve academic success in addition to its College Bookstore. These include the Electronic Peer Network, a virtual student union, Comprehensive Guided Learning packages, recommended by distance learning specialists and faculty, Excelsior College Virtual Library, offered in collaboration with the Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University, Online Practice Exams, and My Access, a tool for improving writing skills. Visit Excelsior at [www.PONSI.excelsior.edu](http://www.PONSI.excelsior.edu) or call 888-647-2388.



Contact us at [www.nationalponsi.org](http://www.nationalponsi.org) to find out how member organizations sponsor links to their Webpages and Directory listings!

### On the Road Again...

#### Arnot-Ogden Medical Center – School of Nursing

For the 8th time since 1983, National PONSI visited the School of Nursing in June to revalidate the college credit recommendations that were confirmed five years ago and every five years since that first review (see article on page 3 about the benefits of revalidation). The School has provided comprehensive nursing education across the life span since its inception in 1889. With a blend of theoretical courses and clinical experiences at the Medical Center and other clinical and field sites, students experience an integrative application of medical-surgical, psychiatric, maternity, and pediatric nursing, which meets the professional standards of the National League for Nursing.



Based on the strength of the curriculum and the recommendations established by National PONSI, Elmira College has forged a collaborative articulation agreement with the School, granting 20 nursing credits and additional elective credits for graduates of the 27 month program. Further, while enrolled in the nursing program, students also take foundation courses in the physical, biological, and social sciences at Elmira College taught by college faculty. The college library and other campus facilities are available for student use to enrich their experience. Successful graduates are then admitted to the Elmira College Baccalaureate Program in Nursing to continue their professional and degree studies. (continued on next page)

## On the Road Again... (continued from page 1)



(front row L to R): Prof. Lois Schoener, Prof. Marie Powers, Joan Ozog, Pat Allen, Krystal Jubilee, Paula Gilbert, Carol Fowler (back row L to R): Sue Cagir, Sue Gosden, Lisa White, Linda MacAuslan, Ellen Justice

Joining National PONSI staff once again in reviewing these courses was Professor (retired) Marie Powers, Nursing Education Program, Corning Community College and Professor Lois Schoener, Professor and Director of Nurse Education at Elmira College. School of Nursing Director, Linda MacAuslan, and her faculty (nine of whom joined the team during the visit), set up stations for each course impressing the team and reinforcing their favorable findings.

### Camp Treetops

During the second week of July, National PONSI staff visited Camp Treetops in Lake Placid, NY as part of their five-year revalidation to determine the continued comparability to college-level instruction of their Practical Application of Progressive Educational Theory Course. Situated in the High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains, the setting for this summer program, which began back in 1920, is absolutely breathtaking. There are two camp communities, a junior division for youngsters eight through eleven years of age and a senior division for youth ages twelve through fourteen. The philosophy of the camp is that children learn more effectively through experience, and should be treated as individuals, with the strong personal involvement of

adults who are their counselors and role models.

The Course allows the 70+ camp employees an opportunity to take advantage of supervised field experiences in progressive

education, as well as lectures, workshops, and seminars with course instructors. Students, in addition to working with children on a daily basis, meet weekly in groups with facilitators from the camp's professional staff to discuss assigned readings and their application to their experiences as counselors. The students keep a journal in which they analyze and evaluate their experiences and reflect on the readings. During the summer, the students plan and lead a number of activities that are assessed by course facilitators.

National PONSI staff had a unique opportunity during the site visit to speak with Greschauna "Nell" Sanders, who had taken advantage of the six recommended

credit hours she earned last summer while employed at Camp Treetops and prior to beginning her senior year at Rutgers University. An education and performance major, Nell believed that, as an older student, participating in the course could inform her own teaching and she enrolled with the approval of the Dean of Students at Rutgers. Her philosophy she explained is, "The best way of doing is doing."



Karen Culpepper, Director of Camp Treetops, Greschauna "Nell" Sanders, Counselor and George Drake, Senior Camp Director and Professor of Special Education at West Chester University of PA

### The School for Film & Television

Prof. Peter Sander, Prof. Nicholas Petron, Joan See, Richard Omar, Linda Alanko and Jay Goldenberg (L to R)



At the end of July, National PONSI staff traveled to the heart of Chelsea in Manhattan to visit The School for Film and Television. The School recently revamped its curriculum and approach, since its last review session in 2004, which provided the impetus for the return visit. This is a nice example of how an evolving program is evaluated before the scheduled five-year return visit, which would have been 2009, to assess continuing credit recommendations. The visit was well represented by Joan See, President and Artistic Director, and members of her artistic, programmatic, instructional, and registrar team.

Founded in 1980, the mission of The School is to integrate the acting foundations and methods necessary for the stage into the newer performance art forms: film and television.

The evaluation team consisted of Professor Nicholas Petron, Chair of Performing Arts at Adelphi University and Professor Peter Sander of the Department of Drama and Dance at Hofstra University.

### Reach Out to Prospective Students.



Contact us at [www.nationalponsi.org](http://www.nationalponsi.org) to find out how!

## Five-year revalidation ensures validity of college credit recommendations

Recently, some member organizations received notices that the college credit recommendations for learning experiences initially evaluated or re-evaluated in 2003 are scheduled for revalidation in 2008. When credit recommendations are established, they are valid for 5 years provided there are no substantive changes that occur during this period, which may affect the continuation of the credit recommendations. National PONSİ collects such interim information through a survey sent to all members annually.

The revalidation process is similar to an initial evaluation and helps to ensure the continued validity of the credit recommendations. A site visit is conducted with a team of college faculty, who review instructional materials and student completed examinations and any other means to assess student mastery for each learning experience. The team's findings determine whether previous credit recommendations continue or whether new credit recommendations are warranted. The date when a learning experience was first reviewed and each subsequent revalidation date can be found at the end of each course exhibit in our Directory, *CCR Online*.

### Quote of the Month...

*"Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained."*  
James A. Garfield, 20<sup>th</sup> President of the US



#### National PONSİ's Main Contacts

Sheila A. Morroni, Director  
Diane C. Conroy-LaCivita, Assistant Director  
Carol Creevy, Evaluation Associate



## These Colleges and Universities have Profiles on our Website that Highlight the Special Degree Options and Services They Offer to Working Adults and Nontraditional Students

[Arkansas State University](#)  
State University, AR

[Bethel University](#)  
St. Paul, MN

[Biola University](#)  
La Mirada, CA

[Briarcliffe College](#)  
Bethpage, NY

[California Coast University](#)  
Santa Ana, CA

[Central Michigan University](#)  
Mt. Pleasant, MI

[Charter Oak State College](#)  
New Britain, CT

[Chestnut Hill College](#)  
Philadelphia, PA

[Chicago State University](#)  
Chicago, IL

[Cleveland Institute of Electronics](#)  
Cleveland, OH

[Columbia Southern University](#)  
Orange Beach, AL

[Delaware County Community College](#)  
Media, PA

[Dowling College](#)  
Oakdale, NY

[Empire State College](#)  
(State University of New York)  
Saratoga Springs, NY

[Excelsior College](#)  
Albany, NY

[Golden Gate University](#)  
San Francisco, CA

[Immaculata University](#)  
Immaculata, PA

[Indiana University](#)  
Bloomington, IN

[LaRoche College](#)  
Pittsburgh, PA

[Manhattan College](#)  
Riverdale, NY

[Marian College of Fond Du Lac](#)  
Fond Du Lac, WI

[Marist College](#)  
Poughkeepsie, NY

[Mercy College](#)  
Dobbs Ferry, NY

[Molloy College](#)  
Rockville Centre, NY

[Monmouth University](#)  
West Long Branch, NJ

[Montana State University-Billings](#)  
Billings, MT

[Northeastern University School of Professional and Continuing Studies](#)  
Boston, MA

[Nova Southeastern University](#)  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

[Nyack College](#)  
Nyack, NY

[Oakland City University](#)  
Oakland City, IN

[Saint Joseph's College of Maine](#)  
Standish, ME

[Siena College](#)  
Loudonville, NY

[Skidmore College - University Without Walls](#)  
Saratoga Springs, NY

[Thomas Edison State College](#)  
Trenton, NJ

[University of Baltimore](#)  
Baltimore, MD

[University of New Orleans](#)  
New Orleans, LA

[Upper Iowa University](#)  
Fayette, IA

[Viterbo University](#)  
La Crosse, WI

[Western International University](#)  
Phoenix, AZ

[Western New England College](#)  
Springfield, MA

[Wilmington College](#)  
New Castle, DE

[World College](#)  
Virginia Beach, VA

### Who we are:

Created in 1973 as a program of the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, the National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction (**National PONSİ**) evaluates courses and examination programs offered by noncollegiate organizations nationwide and makes recommendations on their comparability to college-level instruction.