

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 6.4 Cleveland State University, Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety Management

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the Cleveland State University Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Public Safety Management is approved.

BACKGROUND

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Safety Management

Cleveland State University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Safety Management. The proposed undergraduate degree builds on the University's mission to provide expertise and assistance to the citizens of an urban community, extending educational opportunities and services. The proposed degree program will be housed in the Levin College of Urban Affairs. The Levin College of Urban Affairs mission statement also maintains that "as a public service provider to the City of Cleveland, the Northeast Ohio region, and the State of Ohio, the Levin College will provide academic and professional education, expertise, and research capabilities to enhance the quality of life in urban communities." The new degree program will give the College of Urban Affairs an opportunity to reach out to a larger and growing population and continue its excellence in these areas.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Safety Management will allow for the in-depth study of community safety needs and problems. The proposed program will build upon the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees in public safety and paralegal studies from Cuyahoga Community College, Lakeland Community College, and Lorain County Community College. Cleveland State University currently has 2 + 2 programs with these area community colleges. The proposed Bachelor of Arts degree will provide a degree completion option for adults who desire management positions in the public safety field. Students will have the opportunity to select a track in Law Enforcement/Fire Science or in Paralegal Studies. The Law Enforcement/Fire Science track will prepare students for careers in management of the justice system and provide a background of how criminal procedures fit into its framework. The Paralegal Studies track will allow students to develop a specialty in administration and communication skills in this field.

According to the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, the call for employees in the public safety fields is growing. In Ohio, and more specifically, in four of the Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) surrounding Cleveland State University, employment projections show an increase of 23% from 1994-2005. These estimates indicate that there will be 71,560 workers in public safety related fields for the combined SDA area by 2005, and a total annual job opening of 2,675 employees. Public safety professionals include such workers as fire fighters and supervisors, correction officers, detectives, investigators, emergency medical technicians, legal assistants and technicians, title examiners and abstractors and court clerks.

In addition to the General Education requirements of the University, the College requirements for students in the Levin College of Urban Affairs, the B.A. in Public Safety Management requires 32-36 credit hours consisting of five Core Courses (20 credit hours) and the completion of either the Law

Enforcement/Fire Science or Paralegal Studies track (12-16 credit hours). The B.A. in Public Safety Management will span a broad spectrum of skills from conflict management and urban issues to public safety and urban organization management.

Three institutions within the neighboring area offer degrees similar to the B.A. in Public Safety Management. Baldwin Wallace College, David N. Myers College and Kent State University all have Criminal Justice degrees. Unlike these degrees, however, Cleveland State University's proposed public safety degree would focus more broadly on issues of management and administration within the urban community rather than a specific background in the criminal justice system.

The proposed B.A. in Public Safety Management does not require new courses or faculty; the degree draws upon existing courses and faculty. The anticipated costs for the program are minimal and will draw upon existing resources and facilities, or those available beginning November 2001 in the new Urban Affairs building (state of the art computer labs and work spaces for students). The Public Safety Management degree is expected to enroll between 40 and 60 students per year.