

BACKGROUND

Columbus State Community College

Associate of Applied Science degree in Digital Photography

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for associate degree programs. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Columbus State Community College has developed a digital photography program in response to the growing need for qualified skilled digital photographers in advertising, real estate, journalism, medical, biomedical, forensics, police and fire departments in central Ohio and across the state.

The digital photography field is a fast growing field with nearly ninety percent of all professional photographs now taken with a digital camera. Digital technology interfaces with all aspects of today's information technology and is an integral part of today's computers, software, web sites and the internet. As technology advances with hand-held devices, high speed networks, iPods and the next generation technology, success in this new career field requires higher level skills and Columbus State Community College is responding to that need.

During the development of this new program, Columbus State Community College met with representatives from the Columbus College of Art and Design and the Ohio State University-Main Campus to ensure this program would not duplicate another program already being offered in the area. Both institutions offer classes in photography but neither has a digital photography degree program.

A similar program to the one Columbus State Community College developed is located at Cuyahoga Community College (over 125 miles away). The two campuses worked collaboratively this past year in the development of this program and shared resources, expertise and experiences with each other to ensure the quality and rigor of the program. The campuses plan to continue this relationship with the program's implementation.

The campus is financially prepared to offer this program and incur the start-up costs needed based on three years of projected student enrollment.

Graduates of the digital photography program will find career opportunities in commercial advertising, greeting card companies, photojournalism, police and fire departments, insurance companies, wedding photography, biomedical and forensic labs, website design and sports among others.