

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.8 Mercy College of Northwest Ohio; Associate of
Science in Therapeutic Massage Degree Program

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 following degree program be granted Provisional Authorization through December 31, 2009 to coincide with the institution's reauthorization date. Yearly progress reviews of the program will be submitted to the Ohio Board of Regents by December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2005. The program must be reviewed prior to December 31, 2006 to determine Reauthorization.

Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, Toledo, Ohio
Associate of Science in Therapeutic Massage Degree Program

BACKGROUND

Mercy College of Northwest Ohio
Toledo, Ohio

Associate of Science in Therapeutic Massage Degree Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

Provisional Authorization is recommended for a period of three (3) years to ensure that the proposed program meets Regents standards for this associate program.

Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, a single-purpose allied health professions institution, has developed an Associate of Science in Therapeutic Massage Degree Program that meets the requirements necessary for preparation for the Ohio Medical Board examination for Massage Therapy. And, the proposed program also and uniquely combines massage therapy clinical practice within a degree program structure that further prepares students for advanced educational opportunities. As massage therapy is increasingly included in preventative health care programs by both the medical community and insurance companies, this program seeks to prepare highly qualified and degreed practitioners to address the expanding demands of the field.

The program is aligned with the mission and purpose of the institution in that it seeks the integration of advanced professional study and practice, i.e., the combination of theoretical and experiential learning, and is also focused upon the ideals of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

The institution is currently authorized by the Regents to deliver the following programs: Associate of Science degrees in Nursing and Allied Health (Health Information Technology, Pharmacy Technology, and Radiologic Technology), and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Academic control of the proposed program is outlined and described in the proposal materials, including appropriate administrative services to accommodate the new program. However, the lack of more substantive materials submitted with the proposal raised consultant concerns regarding the adequacy of proposed program academic controls. Therefore, the consultant recommended additional controls for the proposed. The institution responded appropriately to consultant Suggestions and Recommendations in that area of concern.

Curriculum for the proposed program was developed through the standardized procedures for curriculum development at the College with faculty having primary responsibility for development and maintenance of curriculum. Additionally, the proposed curriculum meets the criteria and guidelines for preparation for the Ohio Medical Board Massage Therapy Examination. However, the consultant registered concerns with three specific course descriptions and with curriculum tracks options, as well as assessment

processes. The institution responded to those concerns in the institutional response and provided supporting materials in their response.

Clinical sites for the new program are identified and the College has many well established agreements with area educational and healthcare related facilities/agencies in the greater Toledo area including the Medical College of Ohio.

Faculty identified for the proposed program are appropriately credentialed and faculty policies and procedures are clearly defined and described in the Faculty Handbook and review materials. However, the consultant found concerns with specific proposed program faculty descriptions, and the description for the Program Coordinator for the new program. The institution responded appropriately to those concerns.

Student services as related to the new program have been identified and will be implemented upon initial authorization by the Regents. Adequate library resources are provided for students at Mercy College through an adequate on-site library as well as a library use agreement with the Medical College of Ohio. The College has an ongoing technology improvement plan to support both student and administrative activities.

The financial plan for the new program reflects projected resources over the next three years, including allocations for library resources. While the projections appeared adequate, the consultant found concerns with inadequate descriptions of financial sources. The institution responded to those concerns.

Mercy College's policies on gender, culture and ethnic diversity are well-established and implemented at all levels of institutional organization and in the institution's initiatives for a diverse student population.

Graduates of the degree program will find numerous career and educational opportunities in the region as well as opportunities for educational advancement through completion of the proposed degree program.

Due to the number of concerns raised by the consultant in the proposal materials, both consultant and staff recommend provisional authorization of the proposed program for a three year period.