

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Belmont Technical College  
Central Ohio Technical College  
James A. Rhodes State College  
Hocking Technical College  
Marion Technical College  
North Central State College  
Stark State College of Technology  
Zane State College

Associate of Arts  
Associate of Science

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

This request clearly meets Regents' standards for associate of arts and associate of science degree programs. Approval is requested for degree approval at the following campuses: Belmont Technical College, Central Ohio Technical College, James A. Rhodes State College, Hocking Technical College, Marion Technical College, North Central State College, Stark State College of Technology and Zane State College.

**Request:** Ohio's eight technical colleges, seven of which are co-located with a regional university campus, have worked in partnership to develop the proposed Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degree programs to be offered through each technical college campus and using the full resources of the University System of Ohio. *Approval is requested for degree approval at the following campuses: Belmont Technical College, Central Ohio Technical College, James A. Rhodes State College, Hocking Technical College, Marion Technical College, North Central State College, Stark State College of Technology and Zane State College.*

The request for approval of the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees at a technical college is designed to provide affordable educational opportunities in every region of the state, using the full resources of the *University System of Ohio* and building on the foundation of Ohio's system of guaranteed course transfer. The ability to offer baccalaureate-orientated Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees at the two-year technical colleges gives students an affordable option close to home with a guaranteed pathway to a four year institution. For seven of Ohio's technical college campuses, a public university is located in the same community and in many instances, on the same campus. Many of the co-located technical colleges have existing articulation agreements with their neighboring public universities. The proposed AA and AS degrees will create additional opportunities, making more baccalaureate degrees available to recent high school graduates and adult students in their own home community. Students will also have enhanced opportunities for transfer from the public AA/AS degrees to baccalaureate programs at private institutions. Ohio's eight technical colleges will continue to offer applied associate degree programs focused on the needs of the workforce and in keeping with their core mission.

**Legislative Support:** Historically, technical colleges in Ohio have not been authorized to offer the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees. Recent legislative changes (Amended Substitute House Bill 119, 127th General Assembly) expanded the ability of the technical colleges to offer full transfer degrees (vs. transfer courses). Amended Substitute House Bill 119 stated that "A technical college regardless of its co-location with another state institution of higher education may offer any baccalaureate-orientated associate degree program, provided however that any new or expanded

programs at co-located campuses must be approved by the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, In reviewing such programs, the Chancellor shall determine whether the proposed program would promote cooperation and collaboration between co-located institutions while minimizing duplication.”

**Foundation in Ohio’s Articulation and Transfer Policy:** The collaborative request for the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees builds on the foundation established by Ohio’s Articulation and Transfer Policy (1990) and recent additions to the policy that prompted significant curricular and administrative changes across the public higher education institutions of Ohio. The policy and resources for campuses are described at <http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/index.php>. Two elements of the policy are central in assessing the capacity of technical colleges for the Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees: the Transfer Module and the Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG). The Transfer Module is a subset or a complete set of a college or university’s general education requirements that represent a body of knowledge and academic skills common across Ohio colleges and universities, containing 36-40 semester hours or 54-60 quarter hours of courses in the fields of (1) English; (2) mathematics; (3) arts/humanities; (4) social and behavioral sciences; (5) natural and physical sciences; (6) interdisciplinary coursework (optional). Each public college and university has a reviewed and approved Transfer Module that is guaranteed to transfer, either individually or as an entire module, across the public higher education system. The Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) is a collection of pre-major and early major courses in 38 baccalaureate degree majors that carry a guarantee of transfer and application to a university major at any of Ohio’s public institutions of higher education. Students can begin a baccalaureate degree anywhere within the system and make progress to degree completion. Faculty from Ohio’s community colleges, technical colleges and universities developed learning outcomes for courses in each degree area (the TAGs). Campuses have since identified specific courses that match the learning outcomes. These courses, in turn, are reviewed by faculty to ensure the appropriate rigor and content for statewide guaranteed transfer. Approved courses are listed on a statewide bulletin board and provide transfer information to students, teachers, guidance counselors, college advisors and others (<http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/tagcourses/index.php>).

**Additional Background for the Request:** The University System of Ohio, established in August 2007 by Governor Ted Strickland, is a network of public colleges and universities including 13 universities with 24 regional campuses, a public medical school, and 23 two-year technical and community colleges working in a collaborative, cooperative environment across the state. Each campus maintains its own unique focus. With a mission to provide affordable, high quality higher education opportunities for all Ohioans, *University System of Ohio* programs and curricula are designed to meet Ohioans’ needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and increase transfer options.

Governor Strickland’s vision to “*develop a world-class education system for Ohio in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond,*” begins with increasing the number of college graduates by 230,000 by 2017. On February 6, Governor Strickland further challenged higher education to use the existing educational infrastructure to provide low-cost and high quality associate and bachelor’s degree programs in academic fields necessary for the workforce. The development of the proposed Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees for the technical colleges is responsive to this priority, placing educational opportunities within the reach of every Ohioan. In addition, legislation passed by the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Amended Substitute House Bill 119, provided the overall authority for the degree.

Presidents and academic vice presidents of the colleges initiated the proposal for the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees in order to respond to these challenges. New regional partnerships are being formed between Ohio’s two-year colleges and four year institutions to promote, recruit and enrolled new students and adult learners in degree programs that are more affordable and accessible.

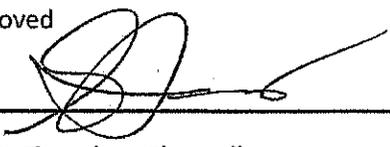
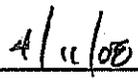
**Curriculum:** Curricula standards for the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science are outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, Rule 3333-1-04. The two-year technical colleges will capitalized on their existing courses and used those courses approved as part of the Ohio Transfer Module or approved as a TAG course. As needed, the technical colleges will use the resources of the University System of Ohio through agreements with co-located university regional campuses and others, on-site and those listed through the Ohio Learning Network.

**Enrollment:** Each of the eight two-year technical colleges in the proposal provided their projected student enrollment through 2013. The two-year technical colleges plan to do some joint marketing efforts, recruitment fairs, press releases and upgrade their web sites to attract new students interested in earning a four year degree by starting at their local two-year technical college.

**Faculty:** The technical colleges will utilize their existing full-time and part-time faculty which reduces the need to hire additional full or part-time faculty. Faculty will meet the credential requirements as defined by the Ohio Board of Regents in the Operating Manual for Two-Year Campus Programs and by the Higher Learning Commission. Ohio Revised Code Rule 3333-1-04 Standards for Approval of Associate Degree Program (5) states that, "Faculty members whose assignments are primarily in the teaching of general studies curriculum should generally hold a master's degree in the subject matter discipline, and should show evidence of professional development".

**Resource Needs:** Existing resources (facilities and faculty) are sufficient to support enrollment projections.

End of Comment Period: April 1, 2008  
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved		
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date	