BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Ursuline College

RECOMMENDATION

Ursuline College meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. Provisional authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, to coincide with the college's next accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) and institutional reauthorization review with the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. Provisional authorization will continue contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor may withdraw authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area or if the institution is sanctioned by HLC. Progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Profile: Ursuline College, located in Pepper Pike, Ohio, is an independent co-educational institution affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Originally established in 1871 as the first women's college in Ohio, the college today serves nearly 1,400 students by offering undergraduate and master's programs.

Accreditation/Authorization: Ursuline College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and possesses specialized accreditation for several of its professional programs. The college has been continuously authorized by the Chancellor since May 1969.

Program Information: The college is requesting authorization to deliver a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program. The program "focuses on the development of nurse leaders who use evidence-based practice for optimizing health care delivery through effective systems transformation...graduates plan and implement their practice with individuals and populations by integrating spiritual, biological, social, psychological, and cultural factors that influence human responses to health and illness."

The proposed program builds upon the college's existing nursing programs and is thirty-three (33) post-Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) semester credit hours. The program was developed in alignment with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) eight core curriculum essentials required for every DNP program and includes a capstone project and four residencies.

MSN graduates may enroll directly into the DNP program. Post-Bachelor of Science in Nursing students enrolled in the program will be required to complete the existing MSN program before completing the DNP program.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the alignment of program and institutional missions, the alignment of program goals and objectives with professional accreditation standards, faculty involvement in the development of the program, the fact that faculty qualifications and scholarship expectations are consistent with doctoral-level programs, and that resources are in place to support the new program.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: establish a uniform policy for admissions procedures, with particular attention to the interview process; restructure program learning outcomes to reflect measurable outcomes associated with the program's goals and objectives; review the federal institutional review board guidelines to assure that the college is in compliance; and seek an external critique of the content and balance of the proposed curriculum from an AACN-experienced DNP consultant to assure there is adequate coverage of the *DNP Essentials*.

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed program, or, in the case of recommendations that could only be complied with over time, by presenting a clear plan for the implementation of the recommendations and a timeline for such.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: Ursuline College meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. Provisional authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, to coincide with the college's next accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) and institutional reauthorization review with the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. Provisional authorization will continue contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor may withdraw authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area or if the institution is sanctioned by HLC. Progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

End of Comment Period: March 19, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED

4/1/10

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor **Date**

MLC