

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Franklin University Master of Science in Accounting

RECOMMENDATION

Franklin University meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends authorization for the Master of Science in Accounting degree program. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2018, to coincide with the university'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. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2018, contingent upon continuing accreditation from HLC, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Profile: Franklin University is an independent institution, centrally located in downtown Columbus, Ohio. Originally established in 1902 as the YMCA School of Commerce, the university today serves a diverse student body on its main campus, through the delivery of online programs, and at three off-site locations.

Accreditation/Authorization: Franklin University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, the university has been authorized by the Chancellor since 1972.

Program Information: The university is requesting authorization to deliver a Master of Science in Accounting degree program. The program "reinforces the core technical aspects of financial and managerial accounting theory, but also provides graduate students with the abilities employers request most in graduates such as communication, research, and technology skills." The program is targeted towards baccalaureate prepared accountants desiring to expand their skill level, individuals needing the additional semester hours required to sit for the Certified Public Accountant Exam, and professionals with complimentary degrees who wish to add to their existing credentials.

The proposed program is thirty semester credit hours and builds upon the university's existing undergraduate program in accounting. The program includes courses in financial accounting theory, research in accounting, forensic accounting, computerized auditing, and management control processes and systems. The program culminates with a seminar course in which students conduct research and present their findings at an accounting seminar.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including: the alignment of program and institutional missions; the use of an advisory board to evaluate and maintain the curriculum; learning objectives and outcomes, which were evident and embedded throughout the

program; the inclusion of an Accounting Research Seminar course as the culminating program experience; and the fact that resources are in place to support and maintain the program.

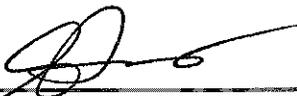
The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution review the curriculum to ensure that federal income tax is offered in the program or required as a prerequisite into the program, and enhance the qualifications for full-time faculty members to increase the proportion of faculty having either terminal degrees in accounting or a master's in accounting with certification and scholarly achievement beyond practical experience.

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: Franklin University meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends authorization for the Master of Science in Accounting degree program. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2018, to coincide with the university'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. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2018, contingent upon continuing accreditation from HLC, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

End of Comment Period: February 17, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

2/25/10

Date

mlc