

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Spring Arbor University Bachelor of Social Work

RECOMMENDATION

Spring Arbor University meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Bachelor of Social Work degree completion program through December 31, 2012. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (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: Spring Arbor University, located in Spring Arbor, Michigan, is an independent institution affiliated with the Free Methodist Church of North America. Originally established in 1873, the university today serves nearly 4,000 students by offering undergraduate and master's programs at the main campus, satellite campuses, and online.

Accreditation/Authorization: Spring Arbor University 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 Chancellor originally authorized the university in January 2007 to deliver its Bachelor of Arts in Management and Organizational Development degree completion program in Toledo, Ohio.

Program Information: The university is requesting authorization to deliver its Bachelor of Social Work degree completion program at Terra Community College. The mission of the program is to help "students build on and integrate their liberal arts foundation with the knowledge and skills of the social work profession and to apply social work and Christian values to ethical social work practice."

Students may enter the program with fifty-eight transferable semester credit hours. Those who do not may take the additional hours needed at Terra Community College. The remaining sixty-six hours that comprise the completion program include several prerequisite courses required by the university and the social work core. The program, which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), includes core components in social welfare services and policies, human behavior in the social environment, practice, and research design. In addition, students are required to complete a four hundred-clock hour internship.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the alignment of program and institutional missions, the institution's commitment to deliver the program at off-campus sites, the alignment of curricular and faculty standards to CSWE guidelines, resources available to students, and an institutional commitment to faculty mentoring and professional development.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution document how the program delivery mode aligns with the Chancellor's guidelines for awarding credit, describe how the proposed program will pursue compliance with the 2008 competency standards of the Council on Social Work Education, develop and implement a systematic assessment and evaluation plan to gauge student outcomes beyond indicators of satisfaction, and provide formal documentation of the collaborative relationship with Terra Community College.

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: Spring Arbor University meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Bachelor of Social Work degree completion program through December 31, 2012. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, 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	
	<i>2/20/10</i>
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

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