

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### Art Institute of Ohio--Cincinnati

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The Art Institute of Ohio—Cincinnati meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the associate of applied science degree programs in culinary arts, interior design, fashion merchandising, graphic design, video production, and web design and interactive media. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and continuing recognition from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are due by May 1, 2009, April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

**Profile:** The Art Institute of Ohio—Cincinnati (AiOHC) was founded in 2004 and today serves over 500 students in its applied associate degree and diploma programs. AiOHC is one of four campuses of the Illinois Institute of Art—Chicago, and is a part of The Art Institutes system of schools, with more than 40 locations throughout North America. AiOHC provides “higher education to traditional and nontraditional students through programs that assist them in enhancing their career opportunities and broadening their perspectives through appropriate general education courses”.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** AiOHC is currently accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACC SCT) as a branch of the Illinois Institute of Art—Chicago. The Chicago, Schaumburg, and Detroit campuses of the Illinois Institute of Art—Chicago are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. HLC recognition of AiOHC as a branch of the main campus is dependent on authorization by the Chancellor. This is the College's first request to the Chancellor and the request is in response to HB 119 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which requires the Chancellor's authorization for associate degree programs in proprietary colleges and schools as a condition of their students' eligibility for OIG/OCOG funds, a state needs-based financial aid program.

**Program Information:** AiOHC is seeking authorization for the following programs:

- Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts
- Associate of Applied Science in Interior Design
- Associate of Applied Science in Fashion Merchandising
- Associate of Applied Science in Graphic Design
- Associate of Applied Science in Video Production
- Associate of Applied Science in Web Design and Interactive Media

Each program requires at least 90-quarter hours for completion and includes course work in general education, applied general education and the technical/occupational area.

**Review Results:** The external review team noted numerous strengths during the review, including: the enthusiastic leadership of the president and the professionalism of student services personnel; an attractive, well-designed, and well-equipped campus; an emphasis on career services and placement; and a strong orientation program for new faculty members.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: enhance the breadth of its general education curriculum to be consistent with state standards for applied associate degree programs; improve the credentials of full-time and part-time faculty members to meet faculty standards; and improve the mechanisms used to measure and improve institutional effectiveness and program outcomes.

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed programs, 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:** AiOHC meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. The review team recommends provisional authorization for the associate of applied science degree programs in culinary arts, interior design, fashion merchandising, graphic design, video production, and web design and interactive media.

Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from ACCSCT (or HLC once achieved) and continuing recognition from the SBCCS and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with standards in any area. Progress reports, reviewed at the College's expense, are due by May 1, 2009, April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed, at the College's expense, prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

End of Comment Period: January 5, 2009  
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

<p><b>Approved:</b></p>  <hr/> <p>Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor</p>	<p>1/16/09 Date:</p>
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