

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### Mercy College of Northwest Ohio

#### RECOMMENDATION

Mercy College of Northwest Ohio meets the Chancellor's standards and the review team recommends authorization of the proposed Ophthalmic Technology and Polysomnographic Technology certificate programs. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2011, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and with the institution's next reauthorization review by the Chancellor. Authorization is 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, reviewed at the institution's expense, are to be submitted by June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

**Profile:** Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, originally founded in 1917 as the Mercy School of Nursing, is a "Catholic institution of higher education dedicated to inspiring its students to a commitment to lifelong learning and social responsibility in the spirit of the Mercy heritage and values." The institution, which is affiliated with St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center of Mercy Health Partners, serves over 1,000 students through the offering of associate, baccalaureate, and continuing education programs in nursing and allied health professions.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** The college is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been continually authorized by the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents since 1992.

**Program Information:** The Ophthalmic Technology program will prepare students to work as part of a health care team in the field of eye care. The program includes didactic, laboratory, and practical components specifically designed to prepare students for entry into professional practice as Ophthalmic Technicians and to sit for the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant entry level examination as administered by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology.

The Polysomnographic Technology program will prepare students to work as part of a health care team in the field of sleep medicine. The program includes didactic, laboratory, and practical components specifically designed to prepare students for entry into professional practice as Polysomnographic Technologists and to sit for the RPsgT registry examination. The curriculum was developed using Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs standards in collaboration with the Committee on Accreditation of Polysomnographic Technologist Education.

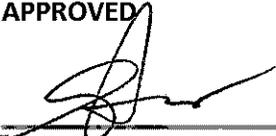
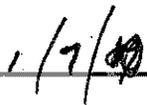
**Review Results:** The review team noted several strengths in the review, including governance structures that are clearly defined and appropriate to the college's mission and the new programs; appropriate institutional resources and student services to support the programs; and curricula that were designed in alignment with professional standards.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: develop assessment plans for the programs and indicate how program outcomes and objectives will be measured; develop program-specific employer surveys; submit fully developed course syllabi; and clarify the minimum credentials and qualifications for the respective program leads.

The college responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultant's 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:** Mercy College of Northwest Ohio meets the Chancellor's standards, and the review team recommends authorization of the proposed Ophthalmic Technology and Polysomnographic Technology certificate programs. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2011, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and with the institution's next reauthorization review by the Chancellor. Authorization is 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, reviewed at the institution's expense, are to be submitted by June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

**End of Comment Period: January 4, 2010**  
**No Comments Received, Recommend Approval**

<b>APPROVED</b> 	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

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