

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

University of Akron Wayne College

Recommendation

This program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for associate degree programs.
There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: Working in partnership with Wayne County Schools Career Center, the University of Akron Wayne College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Exercise Science Technology. The steady growth of the health and fitness industry in northeast Ohio creates the need for additional trained fitness technicians who can administer exercise tests; develop training exercise programs; conduct health screenings; and design and evaluate specialized programs for adults, families and the workplace. Graduates of the program will find entry level positions as health fitness specialists, fitness directors, group exercise coordinators, group fitness instructors and sport coaches, with salaries ranging from \$32,000 to \$42,000 annually.

Program Purpose: The purpose of the proposed program is to provide students with the opportunity to attain a degree in this emerging field. The proposed degree is consistent with the college's mission "to expand degree program offerings that will attract new students and to provide high quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services to all who are interested in continuing their education."

Enrollment: Wayne College is initially projecting an enrollment of twenty full-time and twenty part-time students, and anticipates enrollment will grow to thirty full-time students by fall 2010.

Curriculum: Wayne College worked closely with faculty from The University of Akron's Department of Sport Science and Wellness Education in the development of the proposed curriculum. The college also consulted with Wayne County Schools Career Center to ensure that a viable and meaningful career pathway was created for students enrolled in their post-secondary Exercise and Sports Medicine program.

The curriculum is structured to provide students with the general education and specialized technical courses needed to meet the educational requirements of the degree and incorporates applied learning experiences through the college's Wellness Program and fitness club. The college is currently developing agreements with regional recreation and fitness centers to fulfill students' practicum requirement.

Upon completing the program, students will be able to transfer into a baccalaureate program in Exercise Science, Sport Management, Sport Administration, Athletic Training or Physical Education at any of Ohio's four year public institutions.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The institution is financially prepared to offer the program and will employ a full-time tenure-track faculty member to serve as program coordinator.

Program Duplication: Currently, the proposed program is not offered at any public two-year institution within two hundred miles of the college (Columbus State Community College and Cuyahoga Community College offer similar programs). The college is willing to share its best practices and explore opportunities for collaboration with other institutions in Ohio.

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

APPROVED



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

11/2/09

Date

mlc