

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Art Institute of Cincinnati

RECOMMENDATION

The Art Institute of Cincinnati meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the Associate of Applied Science in Design and Computer Graphics. 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. Provisional authorization is also 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 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 program.

Profile: The Art Institute of Cincinnati (AIC) is a for-profit, commercial art college serving approximately 65 students in its associate's degree program. The school was founded in 1976 by Marion K. Allman and Cyndi A. Mendell, and its purpose is to "offer talented students a career oriented program that will provide them the opportunity to acquire entry-level positions in the field of graphic design, computer graphics, and desktop publishing."

Accreditation/Authorization: AIC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCCT) and is recognized by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS). This is the institute's first request to the Chancellor and the request is in response to HB 119 of the 127th 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: AIC is seeking authorization for the Associate of Applied Science in Design and Computer Graphics. This program requires 117 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 the following strengths during the review: the college's focus on student success; two active advisory boards—one made up of art and design professionals and the other of business leaders in the community; technical faculty members with many years of experience who are still engaged in professional practice; and the institute's excellent student placement rates.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: enhance the rigor and 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 in the general education to meet the Chancellor's faculty

standards; consult with survey experts to create valid surveys regarding institutional performance; assess incoming students so that those not ready for college-level work are placed in developmental courses; and retain a library consultant with a graduate degree from an ALA-accredited program to conduct a comprehensive review of library services and develop a plan to bring the library into compliance with the Chancellor's guidelines.

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: The Art Institute of Cincinnati meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the Associate of Applied Science in Design and Computer Graphics. 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. Provisional authorization is also 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 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 program.

End of Comment Period: June 2, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED:



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

6/26/09

Date

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