

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

ATS Institute of Technology

RECOMMENDATION

ATS Institute of Technology meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, continuing approval from the Ohio Board of Nursing 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: ATS Institute of Technology (ATS) is a for-profit, career college located in Highland Heights, Ohio. ATS began operations as the Computer and Communication Center, Inc. in March 1997. In 1999, the name was changed to ATS Institute of Technology and today the institute focuses solely on nursing students in its practical nursing and associate degree in nursing programs. The mission of the institute is to "to create and provide a high quality educational experience to each individual student seeking to establish a successful career."

Accreditation/Authorization: ATS is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and is recognized by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS). Full approval for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program was granted by the Ohio Board of Nursing within the confines of the Consent Agreement signed March 14, 2008 between the ATS Institute of Technology Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program and the Ohio Board of Nursing. This is the college'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: ATS is seeking authorization for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. This program requires 78.5 semester hours for completion and includes course work in general education, applied general education and the technical/occupational area.

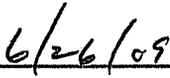
Review Results: The external review team noted the following strengths during the review: the presence of institutional goals that lend themselves to measures and/or indicators of progress and effectiveness; an institutional culture of faculty and staff support for student success; a well-qualified program director who has made positive changes to the program; appropriately credentialed nursing faculty members; an expectation of and support for faculty participation in professional development; and implementation of a nationally-recognized mediated assessment process.

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; assess incoming students so that those not ready for college-level work are placed in developmental courses; improve the mechanisms used to measure and improve program outcomes; improve the credentials of full-time and part-time faculty members in the general education and technical areas to meet the Chancellor's faculty standards; and improve library holdings and services.

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: ATS meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree program. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, continuing approval from the Ohio Board of Nursing 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, at the college's expense, will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the program.

End of Comment Period: June 17, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED:	
	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

mlc