

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY****Master of Respiratory Care****Request:**

Youngstown State University requests approval to offer a new Master of Respiratory Care degree program that will be housed within the Department of Health Professions in the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services.

Background:

The proposed Master of Respiratory Care (MRC) program is designed to provide practicing respiratory therapists the skills and knowledge needed to function effectively in future health care settings. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected a 20% growth in the number of respiratory therapists needed from 2006 to 2016. The demand will come from the aging of the U.S. population, the higher incidence of cardiopulmonary disease, and the expanding role of respiratory therapists in the case management, treatment and prevention of pulmonary disorders. Only in a graduate education setting can respiratory care educators adequately prepare future leaders to meet those expanded roles.

Graduate education in respiratory care advances the science and practice of respiratory care by: increasing knowledge within the discipline; providing a link between the sciences, clinical research and practice; providing for interdisciplinary collaboration and research; and training future faculty for the profession. Nationally, there are only four graduate programs in respiratory care (Georgia State University, Rush University, Louisiana State University and Northeastern University); none of these programs exist within the state of Ohio.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The proposed MRC is a professionally-oriented degree that has been designed primarily for credentialed respiratory therapists working in the health care field who want to obtain the knowledge and skills needed for job advancement within the health care system or to teach in undergraduate respiratory therapy programs. The development of program goals and the proposed curriculum included direct input from the leadership of the American Association of Respiratory Care and individual feedback from regional and national leaders in medicine, education and the health management industry.

A total of 39 semester hours of graduate credit is required, including: a 24 semester hour core curriculum covering leadership within the respiratory care professions, epidemiology, statistics, grant writing and respiratory care research, culminating in the preparation of an abstract for submission to a peer-reviewed national publication. Another 12 semester hours will be required from three specialization tracks—Education, Management, and Therapeutic & Monitoring Applications. The final three hours of the program will provide the student flexibility in selecting pertinent graduate electives

approved by the director of the program (e.g., advanced physiology courses, analysis of current environmental regulations and issues dealing with professional codes in health care)

Given the scarcity of graduate programs in respiratory therapy, the projected growth of the respiratory care profession and the distance learning options that this degree will gradually provide, enrollment is projected to be strong with an initial graduate enrollment of 10-15 students, increasing to 25-35 by year three.

Faculty and Resources:

Eight Youngstown State University faculty members are available to the MRC program. One full-time doctoral-prepared faculty member will be hired specifically to teach in and direct the program. There are adequate resources and facilities to support the program (e.g., classrooms—traditional and IDL, research labs, library).

Recommendation:

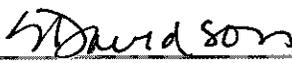
The proposed Master of Respiratory Care degree program meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degrees, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the proposed program. Therefore, approval is recommended.

End of Comment Period: May 20, 2011

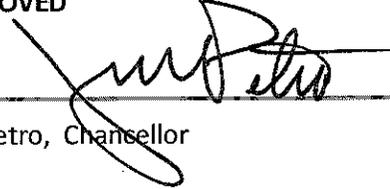
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Recommendation:

The Master of Respiratory Care degrees meet the Chancellors standards for graduate degree programs, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (RACGS) recommends Approval.

 5/23/11
Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Date

APPROVED

 5-24-11
Jim Petro, Chancellor Date

m/c