

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### Columbus College of Art and Design Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts: New Projects

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Columbus College of Art and Design's MFA degree meets the Chancellor's standards, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the proposed program. Provisional 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. Provisional 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 provisional 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 April 30, 2011. To determine continued authorization of the program, a follow-up review will be performed by December 31, 2011, as part of the college's institutional reauthorization request.

**Profile:** The Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD) was founded in 1879 as the Columbus Art School. The school changed its name to the Columbus College of Art and Design in 1963 and, in 1969, the college was authorized by the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to offer the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree. Today, the college is one of the largest independent colleges of art and design in the United States, serving almost 1500 students in its BFA programs.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** The college is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is also accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents has continually authorized CCAD since 1969.

**Program Information:** The mission of the proposed MFA program is to prepare "artists for leadership roles in the visual arts and culture." The program itself is designed as a two-year, 60 semester hour program that is non-media specific and structured as a project-based curriculum. The project-based experience is intended to duplicate the professional experience where an artist envisions a project and brings to that project creative, organizational, and intellectual skills (e.g., budgetary, business, networking, research, and grant writing skills) in addition to craft and theory. The final MFA capstone experience combines a written thesis and a project-based exhibition.

**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 program; effective student services; appropriate institutional resources and facilities; a commitment to embracing a multiplicity of leadership roles for artists in the program curriculum; the focus on individual development through project-based learning; and the critique-based assessment of student learning outcomes.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: develop a process to provide feedback to faculty about student perceptions of their academic experience and attainment of program outcomes; clarify the teaching role of graduate students in the undergraduate program; conduct a ventilation review for lab and studio areas; further clarify the nature and purpose of the MFA program, focusing on student learning outcomes; submit a detailed curricular plan for the full MFA course sequence; and clarify final thesis requirements.

The college responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed program, 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 Columbus College of Art and Design's MFA degree meets the Chancellor's standards, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the proposed program. Provisional 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. Provisional 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 provisional 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 April 30, 2011. To determine continued authorization of the program, a follow-up review will be performed by December 31, 2011, as part of the college's institutional reauthorization request.

**End of Comment Period: October 21, 2009**  
**No Comments Received, Recommend Approval**

<b>APPROVED</b>	
	10/29/09
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

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