BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

DeVry University

RECOMMENDATION

DeVry University meets the Chancellor’s standards for undergraduate programs, and the review team recommends authorization for the Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Design and Development degree. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2013, to coincide with the university’s next institutional reauthorization review with the Ohio Board of Regents. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2013, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor’s written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw authorization if, in the Chancellor’s judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are to be submitted by June 30, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Profile: DeVry University is a for-profit, independent, co-educational institution, founded in 1931 by Dr. Herman DeVry as an electronics repair school. Today, the university provides applications-oriented technology, business, and management education to more than 53,000 students on campus and online. The university, which is administratively centered in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, operates campuses in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton, Ohio.

Accreditation/Authorization: DeVry University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been continuously authorized by the Chancellor since 1986. The university’s current authorization expires December 31, 2013 and is limited to specific programs for which authorization has been granted.

Program Information: The university is requesting authorization to deliver a Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Design and Development degree at its four campuses in Ohio. The 122 credit hour program prepares graduates to create and distribute web-enabled and other digital media, and includes coursework in multimedia design, web-game development, interactive website development, and multimedia management. Students may specialize in one of four tracks (Graphic and Multimedia Design, Web-game Programming, Web Design and Development, and Graphics and Multimedia Management) and have the option to earn two degrees concurrently (the first two years of the program is composed of coursework leading to the university’s Associate of Applied Science in Web Graphic Design degree).

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the alignment of institutional and program missions; use of external advisory boards to develop and maintain curricula; flexible program options that allow students to specialize in a variety of emerging technologies; institutional commitment to professional development for faculty and staff; resources available to support the program; and assessment practices in place to measure program effectiveness and student success.
The team also noted some areas of non-compliance with the Chancellor’s standards and recommended that the institution provide evidence that the proposed program faculty meet the Chancellor’s standards for appropriately credentialed faculty; submit fully developed course syllabi; expand its computer laboratories to include more Macintosh computers; demonstrate the adequacy of library resources to support the program; and describe information literacy expectations for students.

The institution 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:** DeVry University meets the Chancellor’s standards for undergraduate programs, and the review team recommends authorization for the Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Design and Development. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2013, to coincide with the university’s next institutional reauthorization review with the Ohio Board of Regents. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2013, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor’s written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw authorization if, in the Chancellor’s judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are to be submitted by June 30, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

End of Comment Period: September 9, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

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Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Date 9/16/09