

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Cuyahoga Community College

Recommendation

This program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for associate degree programs.
There were no serious concerns raised in this review.

Request: Cuyahoga Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science in Sport and Exercise Studies in response to the growing need for educated and trained fitness personnel in northeast Ohio. The sports and fitness industry is growing and needs trained personnel that can design, implement, and evaluate basic and specialized programs for adults, families, and the workplace.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more fitness and wellness programs are needed in Ohio to help prevent and reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, and smoking. In addition, the increase in health care costs, reduction of physical activity programs in schools, and an increase in the number of baby boomers wanting to stay healthy supports the need to offer more fitness and wellness programs in schools, retirement and assisted living facilities, recreation centers, and the workplace.

Program Purpose/Mission: The purpose of the proposed program is to provide students with the opportunity to obtain a degree in the health, fitness and sport profession. The degree is consistent with the college's mission statement of expanding degree program offerings to attract new students and to provide high quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services.

Graduates of the program will find entry level positions as health fitness specialists, fitness directors, group exercise coordinators, group fitness instructors, sports coaches, and others. Starting salaries range from \$32,000 to \$42,000 annually. The proposed program will also offer students transfer options into bachelor's degrees in exercise science, sports management, sports administration, athletic training, and physical education as the college is developing articulation agreements with Kent State University, Cleveland State University, University of Akron, and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Enrollment: The college plans to offer the program at all three campus locations and is projecting an enrollment of sixty-seven full-time and six part-time students in 2009. By fall 2010, the college projects that student enrollment will grow to eighty-seven full-time and twelve part-time students.

Curriculum: The curriculum is structured to provide students with the general education and specialized technical courses needed to meet the requirements for the degree. In addition, the proposed program incorporates opportunities for hands-on learning through student participation in the college's Wellness Program. The college is also developing contracts with area recreation and fitness centers for placement of students to complete their practicum requirements.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college plans to hire two additional full-time faculty to support the delivery of the program at all three campuses. Adjunct faculty will be added as needed to support the program. All three campuses have the resources and services needed to support the program. The college is financially prepared to offer the program.

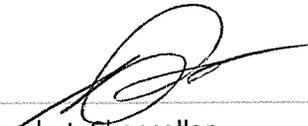
Program Duplication: The college's advisory committee conducted a needs assessment of the program and researched the employment outlook of the field in northern Ohio. During the development of the program, the college contacted Lorain Community College and Columbus State Community College to learn from their "best practices." There are

several two-year colleges that offer this or a similar program, and the college is prepared to share its "best practices" with other institutions interested in offering this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: August 26, 2009

No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

9/2/09

Date

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