

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences

#### RECOMMENDATION

**Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences meets the Chancellor's standards for associate degree programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Associate of Science in Radiography degree program. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2011 to coincide with the college's next accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and institutional reauthorization review with the Ohio Board of Regents. Provisional authorization is contingent upon the submission of annual progress reports by December 31, 2010 and 2011, which address any concerns that remain. Provisional authorization will be withdrawn if, in the Chancellor's judgment, such reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with the Chancellor's standards.**

**Profile:** Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences, located in Canton, Ohio, is an independent institution affiliated with Aultman Hospital. Originally established in 1892 as a school of nursing, the college today is "committed to meeting the needs of nursing and allied health students by providing a coherent general and professional educational experience to prepare individuals for service and leadership roles."

**Accreditation/Authorization:** Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) and possesses specialized accreditation for its current radiography program by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JCERT). In addition, the college has been authorized by the Chancellor since April 2002.

**Program Information:** The college is requesting authorization to transition its current hospital-based certificate program in Radiologic Technology to an Associate of Science degree in Radiography. The certificate program has been in existence since 1947 and includes a variety of didactic and clinical experiences. The proposed degree builds on the existing program, incorporating general education coursework into the curriculum and increasing the rigor of the program appropriate for associate of science degrees. The program will prepare students to pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists board certification exam, the nationally recognized gateway into the field, and provide students additional options for pursuing baccalaureate degrees in allied health professions.

**Review Results:** The review team noted several strengths in the review, including: alignment of program and institutional missions; the curriculum meets JCERT standards for the radiographic technology component; clinical evaluations of student performance are well developed and appropriate; a strategic plan is in place to measure programmatic student learning outcomes; all program faculty are in place and have relevant experience in radiographic technology; and the off-site program components are well documented.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution formalize the process of sharing assessment results, incorporate general education goals into program-specific courses, create a strategic plan for formal development of the pedagogical skills of program faculty, and integrate an information literacy program into the professional courses.

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:** Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences meets the Chancellor's standards for associate degree programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Associate of Science in Radiography program through December 31, 2011 to coincide with the college's next HLC accreditation reaffirmation review and institutional reauthorization review with the Ohio Board of Regents. Provisional authorization is contingent upon the submission of annual progress reports by December 31, 2010 and 2011, which address any concerns that remain. Provisional authorization will be withdrawn if, in the Chancellor's judgment, progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with the Chancellor's standards.