

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

University of Scranton

Master of Science in Educational Administration

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

The University of Scranton meets minimum Ohio Board of Regents' standards for graduate degree programs. There were concerns raised in the review resulting in a recommendation for provisional authorization through June 30, 2011 with annual progress reports due June 30, 2009, and 2010. A follow-up review will be performed by June 30, 2011 to determine continued authorization.

Profile and Mission: The University of Scranton, located in northeastern Pennsylvania, is a private, co-educational university affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church and Society of Jesus. The institution, which offers degrees through the doctorate level, serves nearly 5,400 students through seated and distance education programs.

The mission of the University of Scranton is as follows:

The University of Scranton is a Catholic and Jesuit university, animated by the spiritual vision and the tradition of excellence characteristic of the Society of Jesus and those who share in its way of proceeding. The University is a community dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share in its life.

Accreditation/Authorization: The University of Scranton is regionally accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and holds accreditation from a number of specialized accrediting bodies, including the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. This is the institution's first request for Ohio Board of Regents' authorization.

Program Information: The mission of the Master of Science in Educational Administration program is "to prepare educators for administrative positions in public and private education at the K-12 levels." The 39 semester hour program is completed primarily online, with students required to complete two 115 hour practica (elementary and secondary education) at sites within the state as identified by the student and university, and focuses on areas such as advanced foundations of educational leadership, principles and practices of supervision in educational organizations, issues facing school organizations, and research methods and applications. Options also exist for students to pursue principal licensure.

The proposed program is delivered in collaboration with Bisk Education (FL) in which the university maintains academic control over the program and Bisk Education assists in the development and maintenance of online materials, provides technological support of online delivery platforms, and develops and distributes online marketing, advertising, and promotional activities.

Review Results: The team identified several concerns in the review, most notably regarding faculty credentials for part-time faculty; the relationship between the university and Bisk Education; assessment; and the library's role in information literacy. The university responded by providing the following information to the suggestions and recommendations of the team's report: 1) a plan for increasing the number of part-time faculty that possess doctorate degrees; 2) a better description of the relationship between the university and Bisk Education; 3) a plan for implementing the campus program assessment plan to the online program; and 4) a plan for implementing an information literacy program. As a stipulation for authorization, the university will be required to provide updates to the team and staff through the submission of annual progress reports.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: The University of Scranton meets minimum Ohio Board of Regents' standards for graduate degree programs. There were concerns raised in the review resulting in a recommendation for provisional authorization through June 30, 2011 with annual progress reports due June 30, 2009, and 2010. A follow-up review will be performed by June 30, 2011 to determine continued authorization.