

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Ursuline College

RECOMMENDATION

Ursuline College meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends authorization for the Master of Business Administration degree program. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, to coincide with the college's next accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) and institutional reauthorization review with the Ohio Board of Regents. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from HLC, 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: Ursuline College, located in Pepper Pike, Ohio, is an independent co-educational institution affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Originally established in 1871 as the first women's college in Ohio, the college today serves nearly 1,400 students by offering undergraduate and master's programs.

Accreditation/Authorization: Ursuline College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and possesses specialized accreditation for several of its professional programs. The college has been continuously authorized by the Chancellor since May 1969.

Program Information: The college is requesting authorization to deliver a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. The program's mission "focuses on teaching students contemporary business leadership thinking, theory, and ethical practice, balancing the art and science of management, in order to prepare students for the world of work and the world of living."

The proposed program is thirty-six credit hours and builds upon the college's existing Master of Management degree (both programs share six core foundational courses). Designed for students desiring a more quantitative graduate business program, the MBA program incorporates two parallel, integrated tracks of learning. The first is the art of management and business administration, wherein students learn the theory and practice of systems thinking, human resource development, organizational behavior, leadership styles, team building, global operations, ethical decision making, and social responsibility. The second is the science of management and business administration, wherein students learn the theory and practice of the language of business, which includes an emphasis on quantitative decision making in the areas of accounting and finance.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including alignment of program and institutional missions; integration of values and moral and ethical leadership across the curriculum; learning objectives and outcomes, which were evident and embedded throughout the program; applied course content that covers many functional business areas; and the college's commitment to supporting and maintaining both business programs (MBA and Master of Management).

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution review its current faculty staffing plan to ensure that the program's proposed faculty teach courses appropriate to their expertise; develop criteria for MBA faculty to remain current in their fields; and demonstrate that operations management is embedded within the program.

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: Ursuline College meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends authorization for the Master of Business Administration degree program. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, to coincide with the college's next accreditation review with HLC and institutional reauthorization review with the Ohio Board of Regents. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from HLC, 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.