

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Ohio Business College

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The Ohio Business College meets Ohio Board of Regents' minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the associate of applied business degree programs in accounting, business administration, finance, human resource management, legal assistant, medical administrative assistant, information technology applications, and web design. Provisional authorization is also recommended for the associate of applied science degree program in information technology computer support. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools and continuing recognition from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all Regents' standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are due by May 1, 2009, April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

Profile: Ohio Business College is a co-educational, for profit, career college first established in 1903 under the name of Lorrain Business College. In 1997, Tri-State Educational System purchased the school and, in 1998, the name was changed to Ohio Business College. Today the school offers diploma programs and applied associate degree programs to approximately 400 students on its Sheffield Village and Sandusky campuses. A campus in Columbus has recently opened and will be seeking authorization early next year.

Accreditation/Authorization: Ohio Business College is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and is recognized by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS). This is the College's first request to the Ohio Board of Regents and the request is in response to HB 119, which requires Board of Regents' authorization for associate degree programs in proprietary colleges and schools as a condition of their students' eligibility for OIG/OCOG funds.

Program Information: Ohio Business College is seeking authorization for the following programs:

- Associate of Applied Business in Accounting;
- Associate of Applied Business in Business Administration;
- Associate of Applied Business in Finance;
- Associate of Applied Business in Human Resource Management;
- Associate of Applied Business in Legal Assistant;
- Associate of Applied Business in Medical Administrative Assistant;
- Associate of Applied Business in Information Technology Applications;
- Associate of Applied Business in Web Design; and
- Associate of Applied Science in Information Technology Computer Support

Each program requires at least 90-quarter hours for completion and includes course work in general education, applied general education and the technical/occupational area.

Review Results: The external review team noted numerous strengths during the review, including: the college's focus on student success; its use of a continuous improvement plan; the inclusion of an externship in each program; the college's excellent student placement rates; and its regular use of external advisory boards.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with Ohio Board of Regents' standards and recommended that the institution: enhance the rigor and breadth of its general education curriculum to be consistent with state standards for applied associate degree programs; assess incoming students so that those not ready for college-level work could be placed in developmental courses; improve the credentials of full-time and part-time faculty members to meet Regents' faculty standards; improve the mechanisms used to measure and improve institutional effectiveness and program outcomes; improve library holdings and services; and update the curriculum in some degree programs.

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed programs, 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: The Ohio Business College meets Ohio Board of Regents' minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. The review team recommends provisional authorization for the associate of applied business degree programs in accounting, business administration, finance, human resource management, legal assistant, medical administrative assistant, information technology applications, and web design. Provisional authorization is also recommended for the associate of applied science degree program in information technology computer support.

Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from ACICS and continuing recognition from the SBCCS and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all Regents' standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with Regents' standards in any area. Progress reports, reviewed at the College's expense, are due by May 1, 2009, April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed, at the College's expense, prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.