

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Urbana University

Master of Science in Nursing

RECOMMENDATION

Urbana University meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, with annual progress reports due December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011. A follow-up review will be performed by December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization.

Profile: Urbana University is a private, not-for-profit, liberal arts institution that maintains an informal relationship with the Swedenborgian General Convention of the Church of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America. The university was established in 1850 and today serves more than 2000 students in its associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs.

Accreditation/Authorization: Urbana University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and holds programmatic accreditation from a number of specialized accrediting agencies. The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents has authorized the university since 1970.

Program Information: The MSN program is designed to build upon the goals and competencies of the university's existing BSN program. The graduate program focuses on advanced nursing theory, practice and research. In keeping with the university's mission to offer a liberal arts education in a small college environment, the program emphasizes student learning through individual attention, excellence in instruction, and critical reflection on moral and ethical values.

The university's MSN curriculum is designed to meet the national accreditation standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Curriculum development was influenced by the guidelines offered by several other state and national organizations (e.g., the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the US Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and the Ohio Department of Health). The forty-six semester hour program consists of eight advanced practice nursing core courses and includes an opportunity to select either a nursing administration or a nursing education concentration. Both concentrations include a practicum and a research-based project/thesis.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths during the review, including: the university's commitment to the development and implementation of the program; the collaborative relationship between the university and Community Mercy Health Partners (CMPH); the congruence of the university and program missions; and

the program's academic concentrations in areas of great need (nursing education and nursing administration).

The consultants noted several weaknesses during the review, including: the absence of a graduate department or division with specific graduate level policies and procedures; insufficiently developed course syllabi; inadequate detail regarding the university library collections and services; and a lack of clarity regarding the relationship between the university library and the CMHP library and the roles that each would play in serving the MSN students.

The college responded appropriately by submitting: a revised organizational chart, illustrating the placement of a newly created graduate division into the academic affairs structure; an update on the institution's progress toward the development of comprehensive policies related to graduate education; revised course syllabi; and additional information regarding the university library and its formal relationship to the CMPH library.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: Urbana University meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, with annual progress reports due December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011. A follow-up review will be performed by December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization.