

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

OHIO UNIVERSITY
Master of Engineering Management

Recommendation

Ohio University requests approval of a Master of Engineering Management (MEM) degree. The program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degrees, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (RACGS) voted unanimous approval of the request. Ohio University also sought approval for online delivery of the new program, but, because the online program was not fully developed, RACGS suggested that Ohio University wait until the online aspects of the program are fully developed before seeking supplemental approval for the online delivery mode.

Request: Ohio University requests approval for a new professional Master of Engineering Management degree program within the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Program Purpose/Mission: Engineering Management is an established field that combines the technical aspects of engineering with management skills. Target students are practicing engineers (or individuals in other technical positions) who seek to advance their careers through the development of engineering management skills. Since 1998, Ohio University has delivered an Engineering Management track in the Master of Science (MS) in Industrial and Systems Engineering degree. The Master of Engineering Management (MEM) degree replaces the track in the MS program and allows Ohio University to develop a professional graduate degree focused on engineering project management, with an emphasis on process improvement and information technology.

Enrollments: The current enrollment in the Engineering Management track of the MS in Industrial and Systems Engineering has varied between 10 and 17 students per cohort over the past several years. The Compass Knowledge Group, who is assisting Ohio University in the development of its online delivery program, projects an initial enrollment of 38 students, growing to 169 by the third year.

Curriculum: The proposed MEM curriculum consists of 51 quarter credit hours and will provide students with courses in statistics, information systems, engineering management, engineering, and an individualized project that culminates in a written report. The proposed MEM degree will provide students with foundation courses in statistics, information systems and quality—courses not typically provided in engineering and science degrees. Building on that foundation, advanced courses in project management and operations research will help produce graduates capable of managing technical development projects.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering and Technology, as well as the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, will oversee the proposed degree. The chief administrative officer will be the Dean of the College and the proposed program will function under the Director of Engineering Management, as appointed by the Dean, and under the supervision of the Chair and of the Graduate Chair of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. Because the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department has been offering a track within the Master of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering degree to a similar audience, no additional facilities or faculty are anticipated. Once

the projected enrollment exceeds 100 students, a half-time administrative assistant will be added to help manage the paperwork. The major incremental cost is the course conversion and the one-time fee to Compass Knowledge Group of Orlando, Florida, whom Ohio University has contracted with to help convert the proposed MEM program into a nationally marketed online degree. Compass Knowledge Group has been developing online degree programs since 1993, and has developed over 50 online programs for major public and private universities. The cost of the additional facilitators and the administrative assistant is dependent on enrollment and is far less than the increased income due to that enrollment.

Evidence of Need: Ohio University's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering has been offering a specialized non-thesis track for its existing Master of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a similar curriculum since 1998. Offered through distance education to the Ohio University regional campuses and Lorain County Community College, the program has graduated over 100 students and currently enrolls 20 students.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2006-07 Occupational Outlook Handbook projects the employment need for 14 major engineering disciplines, as well as engineering managers. Of those 14 disciplines, many are projected to have employment that remains the same or declines, but Engineering Managers are projected to increase by 10% or more.