

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Brown Mackie College

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Brown Mackie School meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the associate of applied business degree programs in accounting technology, business management, office management, computer networking and applications, criminal justice, and paralegal. Provisional authorization is also recommended for the associate of applied science degree programs in CAD & drafting, database technology, information technology, early childhood, healthcare administration, medical assisting, pharmacy technology, surgical technology, veterinary technology, and audio/video production. 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 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: The Brown Mackie College system of schools is a co-educational, for profit, career college system that currently operates 20 locations in 10 states. Authorization is being sought for the four campuses (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton) that are located in Ohio, each of which offers numerous diploma and applied associate degree programs related to Brown Mackie's mission of providing career-related education to both traditional and non-traditional students.

The schools that have become the Brown Mackie College system were operated by numerous independent organizations until they were united under the parent company of American Education Centers (ACE) in 1993. Education Management Corporation of Pittsburgh acquired ACE in 2003, and the system of schools was named Brown Mackie College in 2004.

Accreditation/Authorization: Brown Mackie 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 School's first request to the Chancellor and the request is in response to HB 119 of the 127th General Assembly, which requires the Chancellor's authorization of associate degree programs in proprietary colleges and schools as a condition of their students' eligibility for OIG/OCOG funds, a state needs-based financial aid program.

Program Information: The Brown Mackie campuses in Ohio are seeking authorization for the following programs:

Associate of Applied Business in Accounting Technology (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Business in Business Management (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Business in Office Management (Akron, Cincinnati and Findlay)
Associate of Applied Business in Computer Networking & Applications (Cincinnati and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in CAD & Drafting (North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in Database Technology (Akron)
Associate of Applied Science in Information Technology (Cincinnati and Akron)
Associate of Applied Business in Criminal Justice (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Business in Paralegal (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood (Akron and Cincinnati)
Associate of Applied Science in Healthcare Administration (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in Pharmacy Technology (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology (Akron, Cincinnati, Findlay and North Canton)
Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology (Cincinnati and Findlay)
Associate of Applied Science in Audio/Video Production (Cincinnati)

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 efficiency and effectiveness of administrative operations; the inclusion of an externship in many programs; the college's excellent student placement rates; its regular use of external advisory boards; and the college's use of transition courses for students who are not ready for college-level mathematics and English.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: improve the credentials of full-time and part-time faculty members in the general education and technical areas to meet the Chancellor's faculty standards; develop a process for monitoring the adequacy of library staffing and resources; use currently collected data to identify relationships among student attributes, academic success and student outcomes; and ensure adequate budgets for replacing equipment, software, and laboratory supplies.

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: Brown Mackie College meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. The review team recommends provisional authorization for the associate of applied business degree programs in accounting technology, business management, office management, computer networking and applications, criminal justice, and paralegal. Provisional authorization is also recommended for the associate of applied science degree programs in CAD & drafting, database technology, information technology, early childhood, healthcare administration, medical assisting, pharmacy technology, surgical technology, veterinary technology, and audio/video production.

Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from ACICS, continuing recognition from the SBCCS, and the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with 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.