

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

The University of Findlay

Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

The University of Findlay meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. 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: The University of Findlay is a private, co-educational institution affiliated with the Churches of God, General Conference. Originally established in 1882 as Findlay College, the institution today serves nearly 4,500 students and offers associate, baccalaureate, master's and professional doctoral degrees.

Accreditation/Authorization: The University of Findlay is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and holds programmatic accreditation from a number specialized accrediting bodies. In addition, the university has been authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents since May 1969.

Program Information: The university currently offers an undergraduate degree in physician assistant studies (PA) that is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). This request to offer the graduate degree in physician assistant studies is the result of a change in Ohio law that now requires entry-level physician assistants to possess a master's degree in the field.

The MPAS degree was developed to align with ARC-PA standards. The 101-semester hour program includes clinical rotations in six core areas (family practice, general internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, and orthopedics). In addition, students complete two clinical clerkships in any of the six core areas or other medical or surgical subspecialties. Upon completion of the program, graduates may sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination and seek licensure in the state of their choice.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the university's commitment to transitioning the current PA program to the master's level; comparability of the proposed program to other graduate level PA programs; assessment practices in place to evaluate student learning; and student services in place to support the program.

The team requested additional information about course objectives, program assessment and evaluation processes, program admission policies, and faculty workload/scholarship expectations. The institution appropriately responded to the suggestions and recommendations of the consultants' report and will provide an

update on the status of the program through the submission of annual progress reports during the first three years of operation.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: The University of Findlay meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. 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.