

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

LOUDRES COLLEGE

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Request:

Lourdes College requests authorization to offer a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree. This interdisciplinary program will be housed within the college's Department of Arts and Sciences. The program is composed of eleven courses (thirty-three semester hours) and the college intends to admit a new cohort every other year.

Background:

Lourdes College, located in Sylvania, Ohio, is an independent, non-profit institution affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Originally established in 1958, the college today serves over 2,400 students by "providing a values-centered education that enriches lives and advances academic excellence through the integration of the liberal arts and professional studies." The institution is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and possesses specialized accreditation for a number of its professional programs. The college has been authorized by the Chancellor since August 1975.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree offers an intellectually challenging, interdisciplinary educational experience that provides a basis for studying the interconnectedness of knowledge across the humanities, fine arts, social sciences and natural sciences. The program seeks to cultivate an appreciation for the world of ideas while encouraging personal growth, professional enhancement for a variety of careers, and a deepening commitment to the service of others. The program culminates with a capstone project or thesis.

The college is anticipating fifteen students in year one (fall 2011) and anticipates enrollment will grow to thirty students by year three (beginning of the second cohort). Initial projections were based on market analyses performed and in consultation with alumni and the local community.

Resource/Faculty Needs:

Existing resources are in place to start the program. Eight full-time faculty members are in place to teach in the program. The college anticipates hiring two additional faculty members within the first two years of program operation.

Recommendation:

Lourdes College meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs and the review team recommends authorization for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2018 to coincide with the college's next institutional reauthorization review with the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. Authorization is contingent upon the submission of annual progress reports by December 31, 2011, 2012, and 2013, which address any concerns that remain. Authorization will be withdrawn if, in the Chancellor's judgment, such reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with the Chancellor's standards.