

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION

Master of Arts in Educational Leadership

Request:

The University of Mount Union requests authorization to offer a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree. The program will be housed within the university's Division of Professional Studies and offered primarily online. On campus activities includes two two-day orientations at the beginning of each fall semester and two summer residencies.

Background:

The University of Mount Union, located in Alliance, Ohio, is an independent institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The institution offers baccalaureate and master's degrees and currently enrolls over 2,200 students. The college is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and possesses specialized accreditation for several of its professional programs. In addition, the college has been authorized by the Chancellor since January 1970.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree is an interdisciplinary program designed to engage professional educators in a transformative process of cultivating systematic problem solving and sophisticated data-driven decision making in varied educational settings. The program, thirty-six semester credit hours in length, was developed to align with the *Standards for Advanced Programs in Educational Leadership*. In addition, the institution plans to pursue accreditation through the National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education, which the university already possesses for its undergraduate education programs. The university intends to submit additional requests by spring 2011 for Principal (PK-6, 4-9 and 5-12) and Administrative Specialist (Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development) licenses, as well as the endorsement for Teacher Leader.

The university is projecting twenty-three full-time equivalent students in year one (fall 2011) and anticipates enrollment will grow to fifty-two full-time equivalent students by year four. Initial projections were based on local market analyses performed and in consultation with a hired program developer.

Resource/Faculty Needs:

Five full-time faculty are in place to teach in the program. The university anticipates hiring one additional full-time faculty and four part-time faculty members within the first two years of program operation.

Existing resources are in place to support the program. The university plans to renovate existing office space to accommodate additional program faculty. In addition, housing will be made available to students that will be on campus during the summer residencies.

Recommendation:

The University of Mount Union meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs and the review team recommends authorization for the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program. Authorization will continue through December 31, 2013 to coincide with the university'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 June 30, 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.

