

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST
RETS Tech Center

RECOMMENDATION

RETS Tech Center meets the Chancellor’s minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the associate of applied business degree programs in criminal justice and paralegal and for the associate of applied science degrees in electronics engineering technology, medical assisting, and registered nursing. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and continuing recognition from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools. Provisional authorization is also 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 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: RETS Tech Center, Inc., located in Centerville, Ohio, is a for-profit, co-educational career college that was founded as an affiliate of RETS Electronic Schools in 1953. RETS Tech was purchased by Education Affiliates, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland in 2005, and today the school serves more than 1300 students in its applied associate degree and diploma programs. The mission RETS Tech Center is to produce graduate “who have completed quality, people-oriented, post-secondary career training.”

Accreditation/Authorization: RETS Tech Center is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCCT) and is recognized by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS). This is the college’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 for 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: RETS Tech Center is seeking authorization for the following programs:

- Associate of Applied Business—Criminal Justice
- Associate of Applied Business—Paralegal
- Associate of Applied Science—Electronics Engineering Technology
- Associate of Applied Science—Medical Assisting
- Associate of Applied Science—Registered Nursing

Each program requires at least 60 semester 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 the following strengths during the review: the college's focus on student success; a strong program of faculty evaluation and mentoring; the practice of seeking specialized accreditation for all programs where it is available; the use of results from certification and licensing examinations as a measure of program success; the presence of an appropriately credentialed academic librarian; and the regular use of external advisory boards.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: assess incoming students so that those not ready for college-level work are placed in developmental courses; enhance the breadth and rigor of the general education curriculum to be consistent with state standards for applied associate degree programs; improve the mechanisms used to measure and improve program outcomes in general education and other identified program areas; improve library holdings and services; improve the mechanisms used to measure and improve institutional effectiveness; and 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.

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: RETS Tech Center meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the associate of applied business degree programs in criminal justice and paralegal and for the associate of applied science degrees in electronics engineering technology, medical assisting, and registered nursing. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and continuing recognition from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools. Provisional authorization is also 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 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.