REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
Master of Science in Medical Physiology

Request:

Case Western Reserve requests approval to offer the Master of Science in Medical Physiology program.

Background:

The proposed master's program in medical physiology (non-research MS program) is designed for students with a bachelor’s degree in a chemical/physical/biological discipline or pre-med program who are seeking advanced training in the physiological sciences, typically in preparation for admission to a professional medical program (e.g., medical school, dental school), a Ph.D. program, or for preparation to work in academia or biotechnology. Graduates of the program can pursue careers in basic and clinical research, teaching, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, regulatory agencies, and health care. The proposed program also offers an important economic advantage to Northeast Ohio by creating a highly educated pool of individuals who will help retain and attract biomedical industries to the region.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The proposed program consists of 30 graduate credit hours, including core courses in physiology, elective courses in related fields (e.g., anatomy, biochemistry and pharmacology), participation in a seminar series, scientific integrity training, and a final comprehensive examination. The 3 credit hour Independent Study course, with its requirement for a written paper on a physiological topic that integrates the content of the courses taken, is considered the “capstone” experience for this program.

In the first year of the program (2011-2012 academic year), the department expects to matriculate 5 students. In subsequent years, Case Western Reserve University expects the enrollment to increase by 5 a year, up to a maximum of 25-30 per year. If the proposed program is approved, Case Western Reserve University will begin accepting domestic and international student applications for admissions for the fall of 2011.
**Faculty and Resources:**

The primary and secondary faculty of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics will be responsible for teaching the new courses and for the administration of the proposed program. No additional facilities or staff are required to implement this program.

**Recommendation:**

This program meets the Chancellor’s standards for graduate degree programs and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (RACGS) recommends approval for the Case Western Reserve University Master of Science in Medical Physiology program.