

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Muskingum College

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
RN-BSN Degree Completion Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

Muskingum College meets Ohio Board of Regents' standards for baccalaureate degree programs. Authorization is recommended for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and RN-BSN degree completion programs through December 31, 2015, to coincide with the college's institutional reauthorization review. Annual progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Profile: Muskingum College is an independent institution located on 225-acres of rolling hills in New Concord, Ohio. The college, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, was founded in 1837 and currently offers degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The mission of the institution is as follows:

Muskingum College offers quality academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences in the setting of a residential, coeducational, church-related college and in the context of a caring community where individual fulfillment is encouraged and human dignity is respected. Its primary purpose is to develop – intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically – whole persons, by fostering critical thinking, positive action, ethical sensitivity and spiritual growth, so that they may lead vocationally productive, personally satisfying and socially responsible lives.

Accreditation/Authorization: Muskingum College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been continuously authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents since 1969. The college's current authorization expires December 31, 2015.

Program Information: The Bachelor of Science in Nursing is a generalist undergraduate degree that prepares nursing professionals with the theoretical and clinical competencies for entry-level practice in hospitals and a variety of other healthcare facilities. Graduates of the program will be prepared to provide care to individuals from birth to old age and to families and communities.

The program will service a rural area of east central Ohio with a community representing a diverse cultural background. The rural context of the college provides a defining purpose to the program in terms of application of knowledge to nursing practice.

The BSN degree is a four-year, 133 semester credit-hour program. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to sit for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)

exam. The RN-BSN degree completion option is a 61 semester credit-hour program designed for registered nurses who possess a diploma or associate degree in nursing and want to attain the BSN degree.

The BSN program has been approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing and the college holds membership in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for the program will occur during the senior year of the first BSN graduating class.

Review Results: The review team noted numerous strengths during the review with respect to the college's commitment to, and community support for, the program. Further, the consultants were impressed with the college's pre-program development activities, program structure, and number of initial clinical opportunities available.

Among the weaknesses identified, the team noted that additional faculty will be required to mount the program, course objectives for some of the general education courses needed to be revised, clinical affiliation agreements were not complete, and an admissions criteria plan was not in place to select candidates in the event of an oversupply of applicants. The college appropriately responded to the suggestions and recommendations of the consultants' report by agreeing to submit the credentials of potential future faculty hires to the Regents, revising the course outcomes of the general education courses identified in the report, providing updated clinical affiliation agreement forms, and clarifying the admissions criteria for the nursing program.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: Muskingum College meets Ohio Board of Regents' standards for baccalaureate degree programs. The review team and staff recommend authorization for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and RN-BSN degree completion programs through December 31, 2015, to coincide with the college's institutional reauthorization review. Annual progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

