

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Bachelor of Science in Construction Systems Management

RECOMMENDATION

This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. There were no concerns identified in the review. Approval is recommended.

Request: The Ohio State University (OSU) requests approval for a Bachelor of Science in Construction Systems Management (CSM). The proposed program has been a major within Ohio State's Bachelor of Science in Agriculture since 1991. The proposed CSM program is broader than its initial focus on agricultural structures. The program has expanded to include an emphasis on employment in residential and commercial construction. Students are also prepared to enter law school or graduate study in construction management or related areas (e.g., architecture, business, economics, technology, logistics management). The degree title of Construction Systems Management is descriptive of the current curriculum and workforce environment. The Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences will provide administrative and academic direction for the proposed degree program.

Program Purpose/Mission: The BS in CSM provides a focused undergraduate program of study for those students interested in the technological and managerial aspects of the construction industry. The program focuses on developing managers capable of coordinating and directing activities in the construction workplace, ranging from commercial facilities and residential subdivisions to other construction-related industries. Students in the program will take courses in construction methods and materials, mechanical and electrical systems, building codes, safety, structural design, surveying, site development, estimating, scheduling, project management and documentation, communication, construction management, accounting, finance and law. The program requires an internship experience.

Enrollments: Based upon historical enrollment patterns and student surveys, OSU expects that approximately 150 students will begin the program each year with new enrollments drawn from articulation agreements with Columbus State Community College, OSU's Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) in Wooster, Ohio, other colleges and universities and other sources (e.g., new students, transfer students from engineering and related majors). The proposed program is a candidate for accreditation by the American Council on Construction Education (ACCE). ACCE currently accredits 61 construction management degree programs around the country, including programs at the University of Cincinnati and Bowling Green State University. The University of Toledo and the University of Akron have construction engineering technology programs that are not accredited through ACCE.

Curriculum: The curriculum for the proposed degree (196 quarter credit hours) includes a construction management core curriculum, supporting courses (business, finance, management, and human resources), technical communication courses, mathematics and sciences courses, and OSU's general education requirements.

Resource/Faculty Needs: OSU's current faculty, facilities and support resources are well established and sufficient to support the program. Interest in the program has increased in recent years. OSU's program faculty reflect both traditional academic preparation and technical expertise from direct workforce experience in order to bring a necessary combination of knowledge and skills to the program. As the construction management field expands, OSU will pursue additional faculty to support the program.