BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

Bowling Green State University
Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration

RECOMMENDATION

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

Request: Bowling Green State University requests degree approval for the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Fire Administration. The proposed Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration is designed to prepare upper level administrators in public sector and private sector fire and emergency management services. The BS in Fire Administration will be housed in the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, in collaboration with the Department of Continuing and Extended Education and the Center for Online and Blended Education. The proposed baccalaureate degree will be delivered online.

Purpose: The proposed Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration incorporates coursework in budgeting, law, ethics, personnel management, emergency management, public administration, data analysis, strategic planning, and applied research. The proposed program is designed as a degree completion option, with admissions preference for professionals with associate degrees in fire science or emergency management. The B.S. in Fire Administration will position Ohio to be a leader in educating senior professionals in fire administration and emergency management. The field of fire administration is growing in complexity and size as departments add employees, increase budgets, and respond to federal and state requirements.

Curriculum: Core courses for the program comprise 58 semester hours, with all core courses delivered online. In addition to the core courses, students will participate in “capstone” seminars and have opportunities to expand practical knowledge and skill through professional workshops. The proposed program was designed to support the National Fire Academy’s (NFA) plan for a career advancement pathway for fire service personnel. In 1999, the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) group was established by the NFA to promote higher education and enhance the recognition of the fire and emergency service profession as important in reducing the loss of life and property from fire and other hazards. The FESHE developed a curriculum of standardized courses for the associate and baccalaureate levels with emphasis on fire science, protection, and engineering. Bowling Green State University has been a partner in this effort since 2004.

Enrollments: Bowling Green State University anticipates an initial class size of 20 new students in each of the first four years of the program. The only baccalaureate program in Ohio is available at the University of Cincinnati through its fire science program. The University of Akron offers a bachelor’s degree in Emergency Management.
**Resource/Faculty Needs:** The proposed program has strong institutional support. Existing resources (faculty, advising support, labs, and equipment) are sufficient to support the program for the initial years.