

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Urbana University

RECOMMENDATION

Urbana University meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Master of Criminal Justice Administration degree. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2010, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and with the institution's next reauthorization review by the Chancellor. Provisional authorization is contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of a progress report that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress report does not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. A progress report, reviewed at the institution's expense, is to be submitted by June 30, 2010. A follow-up review will be performed by December 31, 2010, as part of the university's institutional reauthorization request to determine continued authorization of the program.

Profile: Urbana University, located in Urbana, Ohio, is an independent co-educational liberal arts institution. Originally established in 1850 by followers of the Swedish philosopher and scientist Emanuel Swedenborg, the university today maintains an informal relationship with the Swedenborgian General Convention of the Church of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America and serves nearly 1,500 students by offering undergraduate and master's programs.

Accreditation/Authorization: Urbana University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been continuously authorized by the Chancellor since January 1970.

Program Information: The university is requesting authorization to deliver a Master of Criminal Justice Administration degree. The mission of the proposed program is "to prepare current and future criminal justice professionals to be successful leaders in modern criminal justice agencies by instilling the tenets of professionalism, service, accountability and leadership." The curriculum focuses on developing managerial and leadership skills in students by emphasizing the theoretical foundations of criminal justice organizations and their practices. The program culminates with students completing an action research project or thesis.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the university's commitment to the program and technology; use of an advisory committee to support and maintain the program; blended program delivery, which is attractive to students and criminal justice agencies; assessment processes in place to evaluate student success; and faculty experience as criminal justice professionals.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: continue to develop the necessary infrastructure to support graduate programs; develop an assessment plan that aligns program mission, goals, and objectives; develop a faculty staffing

plan that meets the Chancellor's standards; re-evaluate budget allocations for library and faculty resources; and assess graduate students' information technology abilities .

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed program, 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: Urbana University meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Master of Criminal Justice Administration degree. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2010, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and with the institution's next reauthorization review by the Chancellor. Provisional authorization is contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of a progress report that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress report does not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. A progress report, reviewed at the institution's expense, is to be submitted by June 30, 2010. A follow-up review will be performed by December 31, 2010, as part of the university's institutional reauthorization request to determine continued authorization of the program.

End of Comment Period: October 27, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED	
	<i>11/6/09</i>
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

MLC