



REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY Associate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional Studies

Request:

Shawnee State University requests approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional Studies.

Background:

Shawnee State University, a public institution located in Portsmouth, Ohio, serves nearly 3,500 students in certificate, associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. The university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission until its next scheduled review in 2028-29.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The Associate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional Studies, totaling 61 semester credit hours and composed of existing coursework, will be offered in an online format. The program blends classroom instruction with experiential learning experiences to prepare students for Educational Paraprofessional (Birth to Age 5) licensure.

The program includes a general education core and foundational courses in child development and psychology; exceptional learning needs; support for children with low incidence sensory disabilities; and professional practices. Students will complete a portfolio and practical experiences, and earn an Intervener technical certificate, as part of the program.

Shawnee State University anticipates an enrollment of 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) students in year one of the program, growing to 15 FTE by year four.

Faculty and Resources:

Shawnee State University has adequately planned for faculty and resources to deliver the Associate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional Studies.

Recommendation:

Shawnee State University has begun the educator preparation program review process for Educational Paraprofessional (Birth to Age 5) licensure. The Chancellor's staff has reviewed the materials and recommends approval for the Associate of Applied Science in Paraprofessional Studies contingent upon the institution attaining the Chancellor's approval for educator preparation programs. Approval may be withdrawn if, in the Chancellor's judgment, Shawnee State University fails to continue to meet the Chancellor's standards for applied associate degree programs and educator preparation programs, receives a sanction from the Higher Learning Commission, or fails to attain Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation accreditation for the program.