



REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in Athletic Coaching Program

Request:

Wittenberg University requests authorization to offer a Master of Arts (MA) in Athletic Coaching.

Background:

Wittenberg University, located in Springfield, Ohio, is an independent, non-profit institution affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Originally established in 1845, the university today serves nearly 2,000 students at the bachelor's and master's levels. The university is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) (most recent reaffirmation of accreditation 2016-17) and possesses specialized accreditation for a number of its professional programs.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The MA in Athletic Coaching is a 32 semester hour program. The program is made up of 22 hours of required coursework and ten hours of electives. Student can complete the program in three semesters by taking about five two-credit courses per semester. The initial intention is for classroom delivery of these courses. However, Wittenberg University anticipates developing online offerings. The online offerings will allow for recruitment of students from outside the state/region. Estimated enrollment over the next four years is approximately nine full-time equivalent students, assuming six full-time students and ten part-time students are in the program at any given time. In order to appeal to working adults, many of the classes will be taught in the evening or on weekends and will not compete with existing programs for classroom or laboratory space.

Faculty and Resources:

Physical facilities and equipment to meet the needs of the program presently exist. The program will be administered by the Health, Fitness, and Sport Department. The MA in Athletic Coaching program will be staffed by three full-time faculty members, who also have teaching loads within undergraduate programs, and several part-time faculty members. This number is sufficient for the program to be offered over the course of a year to full-time students. The university intends to hire additional faculty within the first two years of program operation and increase library holdings to support the program.

Recommendation:

After a review of the request, the Chancellor's staff recommends authorization contingent upon final approval by the HLC. Continued authorization is contingent upon the submission of annual progress reports no later than January 31, 2018, January 31, 2019, and January 31, 2020. The Chancellor may, in his judgment, withdraw authorization or require additional review if the university fails to continue to meet the Chancellor's standards for authorization or is sanctioned by the HLC.

End of Comment Period: February 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM
No comments received, recommend approval

RECOMMENDATION

The Vice Chancellor has verified that this institution has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

SDavidson

3/6/17

Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Date

MLC

APPROVAL

J. Carey

3/6/17

John Carey, Chancellor

Date