

**NEW OPERATING AND/OR DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY
FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: The Illinois Board of Higher Education has responsibility for administration of "The Private College Act" (110 ILCS 1005) and "The Academic Degree Act" (110 ILCS 1010). Under these statutes, new independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location including a new off-campus site, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions also are required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

Action Requested: That the Board of Higher Education approve recommendations to grant operating and/or degree-granting authority to the following institution:

Franklin University--B.S. in Health Care Management, B.S. in Public Safety Management, B.S. in Technical Management, B.S. in Computer Science, and B.S. in Management Information Systems, statewide.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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The Illinois Board of Higher Education has responsibility for administration of "The Private College Act" (110 ILCS 1005) and "The Academic Degree Act" (110 ILCS 1010). Under these statutes, new independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location including a new off-campus site, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions also are required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

Applications for new operating and degree-granting authority submitted by independent Illinois institutions and out-of-state institutions are reviewed by the staff. Recommendations are developed by applying criteria for operating and/or degree-granting authority, which are defined in the rules adopted for administration of the statutes. These criteria encompass educational objectives, assessment procedures, institution and degree titles, curricula, facilities, faculty and administrator qualifications, student policies, publications and disclosure requirements, records, compliance with pertinent laws, and fiscal stability. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials, responses to questions, and, if deemed necessary, site visits. Off-campus sites are defined as ten regions comprised of various community college districts in which an institution wishes to operate. Approval to operate within a region means that once the Board of Higher Education has granted approval, approval pertains to the entire geographic area in the region, not solely the site at which the institution initially applied.

This item includes recommendations to grant operating and/or degree-granting authority to one institution.

Franklin University
201 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215
President: Dr. Paul J. Otte

Background and History. Franklin University was founded by the YMCA in 1902 and now has more than 28,000 alumni. In 1964, the relationship between the YMCA and the University ceased to exist, and the University is now an independent, not-for-profit institution. The University enrolls approximately 6,000 students annually in baccalaureate and master's degree programs. More than 85 percent of the University's students are employed while attending classes. In April 2000, the Illinois Board of Higher Education granted Franklin University authority to operate and grant the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Franklin University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

Program Description. Franklin University is seeking authority to operate statewide and to grant the B.S. in Health Care Management (124 semester credits), B.S. in Public Safety Management (124 semester credits), B.S. in Technical Management (126 semester credits), B.S. in Computer Science (124 semester credits), and B.S. in Management Information Systems (127 semester credits), via the Internet. In April 2000, the Board of Higher Education authorized Franklin University to operate statewide and offer the B.S. in Business Administration statewide, and it now seeks the same authority for these degrees. The method for delivery of these additional programs is identical to that approved by the Board for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and is described briefly below.

These programs will be delivered through the Community College Alliance (CCA), a creation of the University designed to enable all associate degree graduates, including A.A.S. students, to complete baccalaureate degrees on community college campuses through the use of telecommunications. Through the creation of the Community College Alliance, Franklin University continued implementation of its mission to make educational opportunities more accessible through flexible delivery systems and schedules. While CCA offers additional opportunities and methodologies for completing degrees, it has not created a separate faculty devoted only to CCA students; the University's regular faculty have designed all courses in the majors and related fields which they will offer over the Internet. Franklin's faculty, at a minimum, must have a degree beyond the level in which they are teaching, a standard common in higher education. Franklin faculty teaching in the CCA programs also must have a minimum of five years of professional experience in the specific areas that courses cover. In addition, all faculty teaching via the Internet must pass a Franklin University faculty development course in on-line learning before being permitted to teach in CCA programs. Thus, program courses are taught by faculty with both academic credentials and professional experience in the subject areas, using the Internet as the medium of instruction. As an added quality assurance mechanism, each course is under the supervision of a faculty member designated as the course manager. The course manager is responsible for assuring the coursework is delivered as designed and for providing support to all faculty members teaching a particular course.

Franklin University meets Board of Higher Education approval criteria, including mission and objectives, academic control, curriculum, assessment, staffing, public disclosure, support services, and financial soundness. Board standards and approval are required because Franklin University wishes to offer these programs in Illinois by having home campus faculty and staff working with their counterparts on the community college campuses; were these programs

to be offered entirely via the Internet, without a physical presence in Illinois, they would be immune from the statutes under which the Board operates.

Franklin University Board of Trustees allocated \$4.5 million in 1999 to finance curriculum development and to assist with the implementation of the Community College Alliance. Within the University's budget, the Board of Trustees continues to support CCA and curriculum development. The University employs six full-time instructional designers to assist faculty with the design of courses, whether the courses are delivered on-line or on campus. The Alliance currently employs ten full-time equivalent staff including a director, six regional directors assigned to work with participating community colleges, a Webmaster and two marketing professionals. Two academic advisors work with CCA students. The designers work with University faculty to develop and maintain the integrity of coursework as it is translated into web-based format. The professional foundations and major courses will be delivered via the Internet in a web-based format.

It is expected that Franklin University students will enroll mainly as part-time students, although full-time students also can be accommodated, particularly in Internet courses. Every CCA course is offered three times each academic year so students are able to exercise some latitude in arriving at their own schedules with the assistance of academic advisors. After a student has been admitted to a Franklin program, a transcript evaluation takes place in which the past work of each student is evaluated against degree completion requirements. If students attempt to enroll in on-line courses prior to completing necessary prerequisites, an advisor will contact the student and enroll them in the appropriate course. Students also may check the University Website to view an exemplary course sequence in the major in which they are enrolled. Since much of the coursework for Franklin degrees is offered via the Internet, there is no need for a minimum enrollment at any one site for a course to be offered. Rather, the Internet allows Franklin students from throughout the country to enroll simultaneously. The University, however, limits enrollment in classes to 25 students; if more enroll, a separate section is created.

Franklin University/Community College Alliance Curriculum Structure

Curricular Components	Provided By:	Credits	Course Level
AA, AS, AAS, Degree	Community Colleges	60-64 credits	Lower level
Bridge Courses	Community Colleges	At least 20 credits ¹	Lower Level
Franklin University Courses	Franklin University	40-48 credits ²	Upper Division
TOTAL		At least 124 credits	

The design of Franklin's CCA programs builds on coursework. Three major categories of coursework required for completion of each of the degrees for which Franklin currently seeks approval are (1) the associate degree; (2) bridge courses (which may include general education courses not taken in the associate degree); and (3) major courses. The faculty members teaching

¹ Bridge courses are selected from courses already offered at CCA, partner community colleges or are developed for the Franklin University programs.

² Health Care Management: requires completion of 40 upper division credits, 28 of which are in the major.
 Public Safety Management: requires completion of 40 upper division credits, 28 of which are in the major.
 Technical Management: requires completion of 38 upper division credits, 28 of which are in the major.
 Computer Science: requires completion of 46 upper division credits, 36 of which are in the major.
 Management Information Systems: requires completion of 40 hours of upper division credits, 36 of which are in the major.

the bridge courses will be community college faculty since the bridge courses are considered lower division.

Bridge courses will be offered by community colleges and fill the gap between associate degrees and study in the major. Bridge courses provide additional general education, electives commonly found in all baccalaureate degrees, and core courses in the major. Generally, these courses will constitute between 20 and 24 credits beyond the associate's degree and will be selected by Franklin University from courses offered by the community colleges or designed specifically to allow associate degree students to progress smoothly into upper division coursework. The courses may be offered by community colleges or Franklin University. Franklin will work with the individual community college partners in CCA to select bridge courses necessary for each student.

From the point at which students graduate from the community college and enroll in Franklin University, the University has complete academic control of the baccalaureate degree, including all courses and the faculty, irrespective of whether the courses are taken 'in person' or over the Internet.

The specific degrees that Franklin University now seeks authority to offer in Illinois are briefly described below.

B.S. in Health Care Management

The learning objectives of the B.S. in Health Care Management are defined by Franklin University as:

- Demonstrating an understanding of theoretical foundations of management;
- Knowing executive management theory in the healthcare setting and applying related skills;
- Acquiring, communicating, and conveying ideas and information;
- Demonstrating analytical and problem-solving skills;
- Demonstrating an understanding of the impact of healthcare management on society; and
- Demonstrating an understanding of the ethical basis for professional behavior.

As with other Franklin University programs, students must have completed an associate degree as a condition of acceptance into the B.S. in Health Care Management. This program is designed for students who have completed a health-related program such as respiratory care or other allied health program. Franklin University will provide health-related management courses to these students to permit them to advance within the health care setting where they are employed. At least 40 semester credits must be taken from Franklin University in professional foundation courses and major courses. These courses are upper division and address topics such as business decisions and policy issues, contemporary issues in health care management, legal aspects of health care management, developing managed care delivery systems, and management controls in health care organizations.

B.S. in Public Safety Management

Franklin has set the following objectives for graduates of the B.S. in Public Safety Management:

- Applying basic accounting and fiscal management principles;
- Demonstrating leadership and management abilities within public sector agencies;
- Demonstrating written and verbal communication skills to appropriate agency situations;
- Demonstrating critical thinking, reasoning, and analytical skills required for decision making;
- Being able to use human relations skills appropriate for the public safety setting; and
- Using and applying planning techniques to lead public safety agencies into the future.

This program is built upon associate degrees in police science, criminal justice, and other similar public service programs completed at participating community colleges. The baccalaureate degree in Public Safety Management requires students to complete at least an additional 40 hours of upper division course work. This program is essentially a 2+2 where much of the major coursework is completed at the lower division level, and Franklin University provides public management courses to permit students to develop supervisory skills for the workplace. The program is designed to provide students with a broad background in management, including courses in leadership theory, public fiscal management, contemporary issues in public safety management, organizational behavior, and project management.

B.S. in Technical Management

The objectives of the B.S. in Technical Management are as follows:

- Preparing comprehensive informative reports;
- Understanding the traditions and culture of subordinates and fellow workers;
- Performing statistical evaluations of quantifiable data;
- Applying basic accounting principles;
- Demonstrating leadership;
- Conducting effective business meetings and fostering group consensus;
- Applying principles of management to technical personnel;
- Using the power of computers in managing information; and
- Applying project management techniques.

Similar to the Public Safety Management 2 + 2 model, this program builds upon the courses taken by associate degree graduates of community college programs in technical areas such as industrial engineering technology and telecommunications technology. It, too, requires that students complete 40 hours of upper division coursework in major and foundation courses. The Franklin University courses develop management skills for technicians in various fields rather than providing increased depth in an occupational area. The Franklin courses address topics such as improving organizational performance, current issues in business, project management, organizational behavior, and a technical management capstone course. The capstone course is designed to bring the information gained from both the associate's degree and baccalaureate degree program of study to focus on a project related to technical management within a particular industry.

B.S. in Computer Science

The objectives of the B.S. in Computer Science include:

- Knowing the facts and methods to achieve career advancement appropriate to their field of study;

- Developing, evaluating and applying effective solutions to real world problems;
- Developing the skills for life-long learning and professional development;
- Understanding the basic social, legal, and ethical issues inherent in technical professions and their impact on society; and
- Possessing communication skills to develop text and speech that are rhetorically appropriate for technical and expert audiences.

Completion of the baccalaureate degree in computer science requires satisfactory achievement in 44 hours of upper division courses. The Franklin University program adds depth in the field of computer science beyond that normally found in associate degrees by providing courses such as algorithm analysis, client/server programming, database management, software engineering, operating systems, computer networks, discrete mathematics, and computer architecture. This program prepares students for job entry as well as for further study in computing sciences.

B.S. in Management Information Systems

Students completing the B.S. in Management Information Systems will have achieved the following skills:

- Possess a foundation of technical skills needed to begin a career as a business analyst;
- Understand the basic social, ethical, and legal issues inherent in the information systems profession;
- Use critical thinking skills and invoke a variety of problem-solving strategies and techniques;
- Apply information systems methodologies to the solution of problems or opportunities;
- Effectively model work flows and work group interactions to improve work processes;
- Communicate effectively;
- Develop information systems by employing appropriate methodologies, techniques, tools, etc.;
- Understand current trends in technology and be able to adapt to changing computer environments; and
- Understand conceptual skills and learning approaches needed for continuous professional development.

As with the computer science program, the management information systems program is designed to provide more depth of study in the field of management information systems than would typically be available in associate degree programs. The program is made up of courses in World-Wide Web design, information systems architecture and design, database management systems, systems analysis and design, human computer interaction, business telecommunications, electronic commerce, information systems auditing and security, and project management. Graduates of the program may opt to enter the workplace or to engage in further study in management information systems at the graduate level.

Franklin University will make full disclosure to all students that certain business and management courses offered as part of its programs will not transfer to programs accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. Students enrolling in Franklin University programs will be apprised of this limitation in a number of ways, including when they enroll in the program and the CCA Website. Graduation from an accredited program, however, does not have any impact on licensure since business programs do not lead to licensure.

In all the above programs, CCA students would have access to the facilities and resources of the community college, including advising and counseling, while completing bridge and major coursework. Thus, students from CCA-member institutions may complete the baccalaureate degree 'on campus' at their home community college campuses. Of the total hours required for completion of the baccalaureate degree, 40 must be taken 'in residence' from Franklin University and must be professional foundations and major courses. As partners with Franklin University, community colleges provide Franklin University students access to all on-campus resources including libraries, most of which are members of various library resource sharing ventures in Illinois. In addition to the college libraries, Franklin students also have access to the University's main library and to the Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library that has 2.8 million volumes. Franklin pays fees for access to this library on behalf of its students, and if the material is in electronic form, students may access it directly. If not, interlibrary loans occur.

At this time, 19 of Illinois' 48 community colleges have joined the Franklin University CCA, including College of Lake County, Elgin Community College, McHenry County College, Black Hawk College, Illinois Valley Community College, Parkland College, Southeastern Illinois College, Shawnee Community College, Danville Area Community College, John A. Logan College, Kishwaukee College, Lake Land College, Richland Community College, Rock Valley College, Waubensee Community College, and the four colleges of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges district. The CCA expects to enlist additional two-year college partners in the future. Put simply, students who complete associate degrees at community colleges could remain there to complete their baccalaureate degrees in the disciplines noted above. In addition to community colleges in Ohio, Franklin University is authorized to operate or has applications pending in 23 other states. The Alliance now has more than 100 member institutions. The University expects to add another 100 colleges in perhaps half a dozen other states to reach its capacity objectives.

Franklin University's CCA has been selected by the US Department of Education as a Distance Education Demonstration Project which allows the University to administer federal financial aid to students in any state, not only in Ohio. Thus, students enrolled in Franklin's CCA programs will have access to federal financial aid even though their coursework is taken via the Internet.

Franklin University students are not eligible for Monetary Assistance Program funds administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Franklin University courses are not eligible for state financial aid. Franklin University has held meetings with CCA member community college financial aid officers to insure that they also understand the limitations of state financial aid for Franklin students.

The University also has been selected as one of the 35 higher education institutions in Army University, an initiative to offer online education to active duty military personnel. Also, in December 2000, the regional accreditation association, the North Central Association, conducted a focused visit to look specifically at the implementation of the Alliance. The visiting team members recommended no change in the University's current status, which allows Franklin to offer degrees on-line. If the five planned degrees are approved in Illinois, Franklin estimates that a total of 60 students will enroll in them in the first year of full operation, increasing to 600 students by the fifth year of operation.

The Illinois Commitment requires that every institution operating in Illinois have an effective program assessment plan implemented by 2004. Franklin University has developed the

“Assessment of Student Academic Achievement” that has been reviewed and approved by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The University’s assessment plan is based on certain principles: that assessment is based on samples of student work rather than test scores or course grades; that student work is evaluated by teams of reviewers, including faculty and outside reviewers; that general education is treated as a separate ‘program’ and assessed within the context of the assessment plan; that each program develops an assessment grid that clearly identifies and defines the characteristics that reviewers use in assessing student work; and that assessment results are used to improve curriculum and instruction.

Staff Conclusion and Recommendation. The staff believes that Franklin University and its proposed programs meet the criteria in Sections 1030.30 and 1030.60 of the rules to implement "The Private College Act" (110 ILCS 1005) and "The Academic Degree Act" (110 ILCS 1010).

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Franklin University the Authorization to Grant Bachelor of Science degrees in Health Care Management, Public Safety Management, Technical Management, Computer Science, and Management Information Systems, statewide, subject to the conditions which were presented in its application and which form the basis upon which these authorizations are granted.