

## **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 location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, 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 Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the recommendations to grant operating and/or degree-granting authority to the following institutions:

### **Not-For-Profit:**

Robert Morris University Illinois (formerly Robert Morris College)

- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration in the Fox Valley Region (Out-of-Region Authority)
- Bachelor of Business Administration in the Fox Valley Region (Out-of-Region Authority)

### **For-Profit:**

American College of Education

- Master of Education in Education Technology in the Chicago Region

Midstate College

- Associate of Arts in General Studies in the Central Region

Rasmussen College

- Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions
- Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions
- Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

- Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions
- Associate of Applied Science in Office Management in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions
- Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

**Action Requested:**

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education deny operating authority to the following institution:

Wright Graduate Institute

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) 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 location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, 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 and Board policies on assessment of student learning and specialized accreditation requirements for student licensure. These criteria encompass educational objectives, institution and degree titles, curricula, facilities, faculty and administrator qualifications, student policies, publications, records, compliance with pertinent laws, and fiscal stability. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials, responses to questions, and site visits. Out-of-region sites are defined as sites located within an IBHE approval region other than the region within which an institution's original operating authority was granted. There are ten IBHE approval regions; each is coterminous with one or more community college districts. Approval to operate within a new approval region entitles an institution to operate throughout the region, and not solely at the site at which the institution initially applied.

This item includes recommendations to grant operating and/or degree-granting authority to four institutions and a recommendation to deny operating authority to one institution.

**Robert Morris University Illinois (Formerly Robert Morris College)**  
**401 South State Street**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60605**  
**President: Michael P. Violtt**

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration in the Fox Valley Region (Out-of-Region Authority)

*Projected Enrollments:* The University has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 20 students in the first year to 60 students in the fifth year and beyond.

**Proposed Program Title:** Bachelor of Business Administration in the Fox Valley Region (Out-of-Region Authority)

*Projected Enrollments:* The University has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 20 students in the first year to 90 students in the fifth year and beyond.

**Institutional Accreditation:** Robert Morris University Illinois is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

### **Institutional Background**

Robert Morris University Illinois (originally Robert Morris College, name changed to University in April 2009) was established in 1965 as Robert Morris College, a private, not-for-profit institution offering liberal arts and vocational programs in business and allied health professions. It became a university in 2005 and, in 2009, changed its name to Robert Morris University Illinois. The University currently offers a number of associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs at its main campus in Chicago, and in the Central, North Suburban, South Metropolitan, and West Suburban Regions.

Robert Morris University Illinois is seeking approval to grant the Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Business Administration in the Fox Valley Region. The proposed programs are outside of the University's approved regions.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(1) provides that the objectives of the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.*

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.*

The mission of Robert Morris University Illinois is to offer professional, career-focused education in a collegiate setting to diverse communities. The proposed programs are aligned and fully support the mission of the University.

### **Curriculum/Assessment**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the caliber and content of the curriculum shall assure that the stated degree objectives for which the program is offered will be achieved.*

### **Admission**

The University requires undergraduate students to complete an application, have a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate, and submit an application fee. Non-native speakers of English must achieve a minimum score of 500 on the paper based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination or an equivalent score on the computer/Internet based TOEFL examinations.

## Curricula

### Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration

The Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration program requires a minimum of 92 quarter credits. Students will complete general education courses consisting of quantitative reasoning, communications, composition, science, behavioral science, and humanities. The Business Administration component consists of Introduction to Business, Personal Finance, Ethics for Managers, Business Presentations, Marketing Communications, Principles of Management, Small Business Management, Accounting, and Legal Environment of Business.

### Bachelor of Business Administration

The Bachelor of Business Administration program requires a minimum of 188 quarter credits. Students will complete general education courses consisting of finite mathematics, statistics, communications, composition, science, social sciences including economics (macro and micro), and humanities. The requirements for core and upper level courses consist of Introduction to Business, Business Presentations, Principles of Accounting I, II, III, Personal Finance, Principles of Finance, Ethics for Managers, Principles of Management, Contemporary Applied Management, Managerial Accounting, Management Information Systems, Integrated Marketing Communication, Marketing Principles and Analysis, Global Marketing Principles, Marketing Problems and Applications, Organizational Behavior, Human Resources Management, Small Business Management, Operations Management, Business Strategy and Policy, Career Management, and an advanced internship.

### Assessment of Student Learning

The University has an identified assessment plan that includes learning outcomes based on assignments, course activities, and a recently developed competency-based credentialing system. The overall assessment of student learning is a continuous part of the University's plan to ensure successful student educational outcomes.

### Program Assessment

Robert Morris University Illinois has a documented plan that describes the University's effort to effectively review and manage program outcomes. The University utilizes advisory committees that work with industry experts to determine how to respond to industry demands. A Director of Assessment collects and collates data from internship and externship employer evaluations.

### **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.*

Robert Morris University Illinois has identified a site in Elgin with adequate space, equipment, and instructional materials for the operation of the proposed programs.

## **Faculty and Staff**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the education, experience, and other qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors, and instructors shall ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program.*

Faculty and staff currently teaching at Robert Morris University Illinois possess the academic qualifications and experience to teach the courses for the proposed programs.

## **Fiscal/Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) provides that the fiscal and personnel resources shall be sufficient to permit the institution to meet obligations to continuing programs while assuming additional resource responsibilities for the new degree program.*

Robert Morris University Illinois has submitted fiscal plans indicating tuition revenue for the proposed programs will exceed operating expenditures within the first year of program operations.

## **Accreditation/Licensure**

Robert Morris University Illinois' Bachelor of Business Administration is accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). The accreditation status applies wherever the University receives authority to offer the degree. No licensure of graduates is required.

## **Program Information**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(6) provides that the information the institution provides for students and the public shall accurately describe the degree programs offered, program objectives, length of program, schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. This information, including any enrollment agreements or similar agreements, shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.*

The catalog from Robert Morris University Illinois provides accurate information regarding the University's policies, admissions procedures, tuition, fees, and refund policies. Material provided on the proposed programs identify objectives, course requirements, statements about accreditation, and the limitations on transferability of credits earned at other institutions.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that Robert Morris University Illinois 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), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education Policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

**American College of Education**  
**55 West Monroe Street, Suite 2900**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60603**  
**President: Dr. Gerald A. Heeger**

**Proposed Program Title:** Master of Education in Education Technology in the Chicago Region

*Projected Enrollments:* The College projects fall enrollments in the proposed program to grow from 50 students in the first year to 200 students in the fifth year in the proposed region.

**Institutional Accreditation:** The American College of Education is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

### **Background and History**

The American College of Education (the College) was founded and capitalized by Best Associates, a privately owned merchant banking institution headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Based on Best Associates' experience with Voyager Expanded Learning, a literacy and teacher training company, the idea for establishing the American College of Education evolved through the collaborative efforts of business people and educators. The American College of Education intends to offer graduate degrees initially to cohorts of currently employed teachers by working directly with K-12 school districts. The American College of Education was granted authorization to operate in the Chicago Region and the North Suburban Region by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2005.

The American College of Education is seeking degree-granting authority for the Master of Education in Education Technology in the Chicago Region. Fall 2007 enrollment at the College was reported as 1,056 students.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(1) provides that the objectives of the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.*

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.*

The mission of the American College of Education is to "significantly improve P-12 student performance by enhancing the teaching effectiveness and leadership skills of public school educators."

### **Curriculum/Assessment**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the caliber and content of the curriculum shall assure that the stated degree objectives for which the program is offered will be achieved.*

## Admission

The College has established admission requirements for students entering the proposed program. The master's degree program requires students to have a bachelor's degree conferred by a regionally or nationally accredited institution, Illinois teacher certification, grade point average of 2.75 or better on a 4.0 scale, successful teaching experience, and transcripts.

## Curriculum

### Master of Education in Education Technology

The Master of Education in Education Technology is designed to provide students with background and skills to serve in elementary and secondary schools as technology facilitators. The program requires the completion of 50 credits consisting of courses in responsible technology change, information access and evaluation, technology for learners, technology for curriculum and planning, design of educational environments, technology for staff development, systems management, diverse learners, teacher leadership, assessment for learning, informed research, and a capstone course for the technology facilitator.

### Assessment of Student Learning

The American College of Education has identified plans to assess students' learning through interactive discussion, project results, simulation results, written and oral demonstration of knowledge, and written exams. Students will be required to develop an electronic portfolio and complete a capstone course.

### Program Assessment

In order to provide ongoing review of the program, the American College of Education has established a Program and Curriculum Review Assessment Committee (PCRAC), whose membership will include the Dean of Instruction, the Chief Academic Officer, faculty, staff, and students. In addition to reviewing all aspects of the programs, the PCRAC will periodically conduct "student focus groups" to get input from students regarding the extent to which their needs are met by the program offered. Throughout the coursework, students will be surveyed to elicit information related to the course objectives, the manner in which the courses are taught, the intent of the course, and overall review of the program.

### **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.*

The American College of Education has identified facilities, equipment, and instructional materials that will accommodate all program operations. The library resources allow students access to a complete online collection: ProQuest, online databases and journals, electronic indexes, reference tools, and full-text resources. A professional librarian will oversee the operations of the learning resource center, which is used by students to access books, journal articles, and online resource material.



## **Faculty and Staff**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the education, experience, and other qualifications of faculty, staff and instructors shall reasonably ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program.*

The American College of Education has provided documentation to ensure that all faculty have the appropriate training, credentials, and qualifications to provide online instruction. The College requires faculty to have an academic degree in the discipline that is one level above the program of instruction.

## **Fiscal/Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) provides that the fiscal and personnel resources shall be sufficient to permit the institution to meet obligations to continuing programs while assuming additional resource responsibilities for the new degree program.*

The American College of Education has submitted fiscal plans indicating that tuition revenue will exceed operating expenditures in the first year of operations for the proposed degree program.

## **Program Information**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(65) provides that the information the institution provides for students and the public shall accurately describe the degree programs offered, program objectives, length of program, schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. This information, including any enrollment agreements or similar agreements, shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.*

The catalog from the American College of Education provides accurate information regarding the institution's policies, admissions procedures, tuition, fees, and refund policies. Material provided on the proposed program identifies objectives, course requirements, statements about accreditation, and transferability of courses.

## **Accreditation/Licensure**

The American College of Education is currently approved to offer programs by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The proposed program will allow students to apply for the Technology Specialist Endorsement through ISBE. No other certification or licensure is required.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that the American College of Education and its proposed program 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), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

**Midstate College**  
**411 West Northmoor Road**  
**Peoria, Illinois 61614**  
**Chief Executive Officer: R. Dale Bunch**

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Arts in General Studies in the Central Region

*Projected Enrollments:* The proposal projects enrollments of 10 students in the first year, rising to 40 students by the fifth year.

**Institutional Accreditation:** Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

### **Background**

Midstate College (the College) is a for-profit institution originally founded in the Civil War era. In 1888, two commercial schools, which had been combined in 1868, were purchased by G.W. Brown and renamed Brown's Business College. The College was renamed Midstate College in 1970. The College was granted Board approval to offer its first baccalaureate degree in 1999, and now offers several baccalaureate and associate degree programs.

Midstate College is seeking approval to offer the Associate of Arts in General Studies at its home campus in the Central Region. The Fall 2007 enrollment was approximately 640 students.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(1) provides that the objectives of the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.*

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.*

The proposed program adheres to the mission of Midstate College: "to provide educational opportunities that emphasize skills and knowledge that will allow the student to adjust through a lifetime of social and technological change." The proposed program is consistent with the purpose, goals, objectives, and mission of the College and its campuses, and the requested degree title is congruent with the corresponding degree program objectives and curriculum.

### **Curriculum/Assessment**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the caliber and content of the curriculum shall assure that the stated degree objectives for which the program is offered will be achieved.*

### **Admission**

Applicants for admission to Midstate College must have a high school or General Equivalency Diploma, submit application materials, and earn a minimum score on the College's standardized entrance exam.

## Curriculum

### Associate of Arts in General Studies

The program is designed for students who are undecided about their career path or for those who have previously completed a certificate or program and wish to further their education. Students must complete 96 quarter hours of coursework, including 56 hours in the basic general education core and 40 hours of elective courses. Courses are available in both the eLearning and traditional classroom settings to accommodate students' needs. Students are required to earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale, with a grade of "C" or better in all core courses, to be eligible for graduation.

### Assessment of Student Learning

Midstate College has established policies for assessment of student learning outcomes. Assessment of student learning is based on course, program, and institutional objectives. Both formative and summative assessment methods are used. Department directors, in conjunction with faculty, identify appropriate assessment and evaluation tools to measure student learning outcomes. Faculty is required to use a standardized syllabus template to ensure program consistency.

### Program Assessment

Midstate College has established policies for program assessment. The assessment plan links course objectives to program objectives, institutional objectives, and the mission of the College. Programs adhere to the Plan/Do/Check/Act Assessment Cycle. Department directors who report directly to the Chief Academic Dean are responsible for program assessment. The assessment plan is a part of the College's participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Process of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Employers are surveyed to obtain data for evaluating the program. Graduates are surveyed to obtain information regarding employment, percent of graduates employed in the field, and graduate/employer satisfaction with the program. An annual Student Opinion Survey is collected to obtain additional information. Data from the various sources are used to inform the assessment plan and the strategic planning process at Midstate College.

### **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.*

The proposed degree program will be offered at the existing campus of Midstate College. No additional facilities will be needed to accommodate program participants. Midstate College's Barbara Fields Memorial Library has the resources suitable for the proposed program. In addition to providing students with access to campus holdings, the library is active in interlibrary loan, participating in both the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) and the Resource Sharing Alliance of the Alliance Library System (ALS-RSA). Through membership in these organizations, students have access to over 260 libraries.

## **Faculty and Staff**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the education, experience, and other qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors and instructors shall ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program.*

Midstate College has policies in place to ensure that academic professionals hired possess the training, credentials, and other related qualifications to provide instruction at the College. The College adheres to a faculty credential requirement of a minimum of a master's degree in the field of instruction for general education courses.

## **Fiscal and Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) provides that fiscal and personnel resources shall be sufficient to permit the institution to meet obligations to continuing programs while assuming additional resource responsibilities for the new program.*

The Associate of Arts in General Studies is consistent with existing programs offered at the College. The College has submitted fiscal plans indicating tuition revenue will exceed operating expenditures in the first year of operations for the proposed degree program.

## **Accreditation/Licensure**

Neither specialized accreditation of the proposed program nor licensure of program graduates is required.

## **Program Information**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(6) provides that the information the institution provides for students and the public shall accurately describe the degree programs offered, program objectives, length of program, schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. This information, including any enrollment agreements or similar agreements, shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.*

The Midstate College catalog provides accurate information regarding the College's policies, admissions procedures, tuition, fees, and refund policies. The material provided on the proposed program is in keeping with the other programs offered by the College. The materials identify objectives, course requirements, and statements on accreditation and limitations on transferability of earned credits to other institutions.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that Midstate College and the proposed degree program 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) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

**Rasmussen College**  
**8500 Hudson Boulevard**  
**Suite 110**  
**Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042**  
**President: Kristi Waite**

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

*Projected Enrollments:* The College has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 15 students in the first year to 60 students in the fifth year.

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

*Projected Enrollments:* The College has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 15 students in the first year to 60 students in the fifth year.

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

*Projected Enrollments:* The College has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 30 students in the first year to 75 students in the fifth year.

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

*Projected Enrollments:* The College has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 10 students in the first year to 30 students in the fifth year.

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Office Management in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

*Projected Enrollments:* The College has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 10 students in the first year to 25 students in the fifth year.

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions

*Projected Enrollments:* The College has projected fall enrollments in the proposed program will grow from 20 students in the first year to 45 students in the fifth year.

**Institutional Accreditation:** Rasmussen College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

## **Background and History**

Rasmussen College (the College), formerly known as Rasmussen Business College, and originally called the Rasmussen Practical School of Business, was founded in 1900, in St. Paul, Minnesota, by Walter Rasmussen, to meet the growing business needs of the St. Paul community. Since then, the College has expanded to include five locations across the state of Minnesota, two

locations each in Florida and North Dakota, locations in Illinois and Wisconsin, and an online division. In 2004, Rasmussen College became a subsidiary of Deltak Edu, Inc., whose corporate offices are located in Hinsdale, Illinois. Fall 2007 enrollment at Rasmussen College was 321 students.

Rasmussen College is seeking approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration, Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting, Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician, Associate of Applied Science in Office Management, and Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(1) provides that the objectives of the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.*

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.*

The proposed programs are consistent with the mission of Rasmussen College. The mission states: "Rasmussen College is dedicated to serving our communities by recognizing the diverse needs of individuals. We encourage personal and professional development through respect, appreciation, and a commitment to general education as a foundation for lifelong learning. As an institution of higher learning, the institution is committed to preparing students to be active, productive, and successful contributors to a global community."

### **Curriculum/Assessment**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the caliber and content of the curriculum shall assure that the stated degree objectives for which the program is offered will be achieved.*

#### **Admission**

Applicants to Rasmussen College are required to submit a completed application form, application fee, placement examinations, and verification of high school graduation or equivalency. In addition, applicants must complete placement examinations at Rasmussen College before being admitted. International student applicants must present the credentials necessary to satisfy U.S. Immigration requirements, as well as submit a minimum official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 500 on the written examination, or 173 on the computerized exam.

#### **Curricula**

##### **Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education**

The Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education degree is designed to prepare students for employment in the childcare field. The program requires students to complete 99 quarter credits consisting of courses in foundations of childcare, childcare curriculum and instruction, health safety and nutrition, development in the childcare classroom, creating a learning environment, curriculum in the early childhood classroom, infant and toddler development, dynamics of a family, the exceptional child, literacy through children's literature,

computer information systems, success strategies, and career development. Students will complete general education courses in composition, communication, humanities, literature, statistics, science, and social behavioral sciences.

#### Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration

The requirements for the completion of the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration are that students complete 96 quarter credits consisting of courses in composition, communication, humanities, mathematics, social science, computer information systems, Word for Windows, success strategies, career development, structure and function of the human body, medical terminology, basic coding, intermediate coding, ambulatory care coding, medical office procedures, medical transcription I and II, health information management, medical insurance billing, pathology I and II, medical law and ethics, practicum, and capstone course.

#### Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting

Students in the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting degree program are required to complete 96 quarter credits. Program graduates are prepared to work in medical settings under the supervision of professional medical staff. Courses in the program consist of composition, communication, humanities, natural science, mathematics, social science, computer information systems, success strategies, career development, psychology, medical terminology, medical office procedures, medical insurance and billing, pathology I and II, medical law and ethics, Medical Assisting Skills I and II, pharmacology, laboratory skill for medical assisting, and field experience course.

#### Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician

The Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician degree is designed to equip students with technical skills necessary to assist in the medical healthcare industry. Students are required to complete 99 quarter credits for the program. Courses consist of composition, communication, humanities, natural science, social science, computer information systems, success strategies, career development, mathematics, medical technology, clinical laboratory science, chemistry I and II, hematology I and II, urinalysis, microbiology I and II, immunology, immunochemistry, phlebotomy, and clinical practicum.

#### Associate of Applied Science in Office Management

Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science in Office Management consist of 96 quarter credits to complete the degree program. The program is designed to prepare students in the development of office management and administrative skills. Students will complete 34 general education credits consisting of courses in composition, communication, humanities, mathematics, social science, and natural science. Students will complete 36 credits in the core area consisting of accounting, customer care, professional communication, computer information systems, Excel, professional presentations, success strategies, career development, keyboarding I and II, and Word for Windows. Students are required to complete a specialization consisting of 26 credits in an area of corporate management, legal criminal justice, small business, government, or medical specialization.

## Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal

The Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal is designed to provide students an understanding of the legal system, including courts, law firms, and government agencies. Students will complete courses in composition, communication, humanities, mathematics, social science, computer information systems, success strategies, career development, law and the legal system, legal research, civil litigation and procedures I and II, contracts, legal research writing I and II, real estate law, corporate operations, office technology, torts, family law, and paralegal internship. The Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal requires students to complete 94 quarter credits.

### Assessment of Student Learning

Rasmussen College has defined the assessment of student learning as a continuous part of the College's plan to ensure successful student educational outcomes. The College assesses student learning through testing, course assignments, activities, course projects, and portfolios.

### Program Assessment

The Vice President of Academic Affairs will lead an annual review of curriculum and the program development process at Rasmussen College. Rasmussen College indicates faculty involvement in program review and development at the College.

### Facilities

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.*

The College has documented its ability to adequately provide space, equipment, and instructional material to offer the proposed programs. The College has library resources that include subscriptions to educational databases such as Ebsco MEDLINE, CINAHL Plus, Ebsco Business Source Premier, Ebsco Academic Search, Ebsco Business, Newsbank, Proquest, Hoovers, Infotrac, NetLibrary, specialized reference material, and a professionally cataloged collection of books and reference material.

### Faculty and Staff

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the education, experience, and other qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors, and instructors shall ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program.*

Rasmussen College has identified standards for faculty and staff of the proposed programs. Faculty must hold a degree that is one level higher than the degree level in which they teach, or a terminal degree in a technical field of study. All general education faculty must hold a master's degree or higher in the specific field of instruction.



## **Program Information**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(6) provides that the information the institution provides for students and the public shall accurately describe the degree programs offered, program objectives, length of program, schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. This information, including any enrollment agreements or similar agreements, shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.*

Program requirements that are described in the catalog accurately reflect requirements, tuition, fees, and other institutional policies.

## **Fiscal/Personnel Resources**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) provides that the fiscal and personnel resources shall be sufficient to permit the institution to meet obligations to continuing programs while assuming additional resource responsibilities for the new degree program.*

The College has indicated that revenue for the proposed programs will exceed expenditures within the first year of operations for the proposed programs.

## **Licensure or Certification**

Rasmussen College will seek additional accreditation for the following programs: Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education through the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting through the American Association of Medical Assistants, and Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

The Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration, Associate of Applied Science in Office Management, and Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal do not require additional accreditation or licensure of graduates.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that Rasmussen College 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), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education Policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

**Wright Graduate Institute**  
**445 East Ohio, Suite 400**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60611**  
**President: Robert J. Wright**

**Staff Recommendation:** Denial of Authorization to Operate and Certificate of Approval

## **Background and History**

In 1979, Robert Wright established Human Effectiveness, Inc. (HEI). This institution worked with clients in the areas of personal growth and transformation through “high-performance training,” Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), individual skill development, therapy, industrial consulting, and training. In 1985, Judith Wright established the Center for Exceptional Living (CEL), which provided individual and seminar training in improving relationships, family dynamics, overcoming destructive habits, and professional development. In 1997, the businesses merged and established the Wright Leadership Institute. In 2007, the Wright Graduate Institute (WGI or Institution) was incorporated.

Staff’s review of WGI’s application for operating and degree granting authority began in December 2007. Repeated correspondence with the Institution regarding several areas of concern that needed to be addressed in the application did not produce a proposal that could be recommended to the Board for approval. In October 2008, the Institution submitted a revised application for institutional approval, dropping its request for degree approval. However, the proposal still could not be recommended to the Board for approval.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has statutory responsibility to approve institutional operating authority and degree-granting authority for postsecondary institutions within the state of Illinois under the Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005) and the Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010). The IBHE adopted administrative rules to implement the provisions of the Acts which have been approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The rules for administering the Acts include the criteria employed in determining institutional approval. These are described in 23 Illinois Administrative Code Section 1030.30 and are referenced where appropriate below.

## **Staff Recommendation and Rationale**

An application for institutional authorization represents approval of the institution as a whole. IBHE requires an institution to demonstrate it has established or has a well-organized plan to develop the resources, organizational structure, policies, and procedures necessary to achieve its objectives as a postsecondary educational institution. The criteria for granting authorization to operate addresses all aspects of the operation of a postsecondary institution, including mission and objectives, planned programs, facilities, faculty, academic standards, maintenance of student records, public information, and financial stability.

Wright Graduate Institute submitted an application to the IBHE for authorization to operate as a postsecondary educational institution in Illinois based on the following instructional programs:

- Master of Arts in Human Development
- Doctor of Education in Human Development
- Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development

A review of the materials presented by the Institution indicates that the Institution does not meet the following criteria:

*Administrative Code Institutional Criterion 1030.30(a)(1) requires that the objectives for the institution and its degree programs must be consistent with what the institutional name and degree program titles imply.*

The proposed programs from WGI in “human development” are identified by the Institution as instructional programs in education. Conversely, the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP code), which is the United States Department of Education’s taxonomic coding system for secondary and postsecondary instructional programs, categorizes the CIP code used by WGI (13.9999) to define its proposed programs as a generic category in education.

WGI characterizes its proposed instructional programs in “human development” as being in education and “developed in response to an expressed need for graduate-level distributed learning programs that will serve the needs of adults and mid-career professionals seeking to better understand the academic and theoretical foundation for human development techniques and methodologies.” In contrast, the Classification of Instructional Programs defines the category of education as “instructional programs that focus on the theory of learning and teaching and related research, administrative, and support services.”

In title and in curricular content, WGI’s programs in “human development” are not programs in education, according to the instructional taxonomy of the U.S. Department of Education. The Institution’s description of its “human development” programs contradicts the CIP code classification throughout the application and in correspondence (technical questions) to clarify application issues. While the proposed curriculum (itemized below) is a pastiche of course titles lacking disciplinary focus appropriate to graduate (and particularly doctoral) study, the programs could be viewed as more closely aligned with psychology or counseling programs. They do not fulfill approval requirements for programs in any of the classification categories in education.

*Administrative Code Institutional Criterion 1030.30(a)(4) requires that the education, experience, and other qualifications of faculty, staff, and instructors shall reasonably ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the course or program of study.*

Wright Graduate Institute has indicated that the application is “clearly linked to instruction.” However, the faculty qualifications presented in the application for WGI do not meet IBHE standards of approval. According to the IBHE Policy and Procedures Manual for Operating and Degree-Granting Authority, “faculty should have a completed degree in the discipline they will teach or for which they will develop curricula at least one level above the courses being taught or developed.” Based on faculty qualifications set forth in the application and the Institution’s subsequent response to technical questions presented by IBHE staff, the proposal from Wright Graduate Institute fails to meet IBHE criteria (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.30 (a) (4)).

WGI has identified adjunct faculty with degrees in anthropology, economics, education, philosophy, psychology, and law. Again, the Institution defined the program as a program in Education. It also indicated that instruction would be presented through a “distributed, tutorial model, with one-on-one independent studies combined with weekend seminars and programs. (Because WGI’s graduate students and faculty are widely dispersed geographically, the majority of faculty-student interaction is by phone and electronic mail).” Identified program courses consist of:

- Foundations for Adult Learning and Development
- Dynamics of Family, Relationship, and Intimacy

- Theory and Dynamics of Personal Power
- Human Spirituality and Life Purpose
- Theory, Principles, and Technologies of Leadership
- Scholarly Inquiry and Statistics
- Research Design and Advanced Statistics
- Systems Thinking, Design Intervention
- Blocks to Human Potential
- Principled Living and Applied Existential Philosophy
- Group Dynamics
- Research Methods Specialization I
- Principles of Technologies of Peer Empowerment
- Applied Early Childhood Development
- Vision in Action: Applied Adlerian Adult Development
- Applied Adolescent and Adult Development
- Human Motivation and Influence
- Research Methods Specialization II
- Personal and Professional Coaching
- Teaming

Based on the faculty identified in the application, the learning format and identified course descriptions do not correspond to a recognized doctoral-level discipline of education. As a result, the application does not meet approval standards.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that Wright Graduate Institute and the proposed programs do not 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 resolutions:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Robert Morris University Illinois (Formerly Robert Morris College) Authorization to Grant the Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration in the Fox Valley Region subject to the institution’s implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which these authorizations are granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to the American College of Education Authorization to Grant the Master of Education in Education Technology in the Chicago Region subject to the institution’s implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Midstate College Authorization to Grant the Associate of Arts in General Studies in the Central Region subject to the institution’s implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Rasmussen College Authorization to Grant the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Administration, the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting, the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician, the Associate of Applied Science in Office Management, and the Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal in the Fox Valley and South Metropolitan Regions subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its applications and that form the basis upon which these authorizations are granted.*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby denies Wright Graduate Institute the Certificate of Approval and Authorization to operate in the Chicago Region.*

