

APPROVED
February 4, 2014

Item #III-9
February 4, 2014

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

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: 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 degree-granting authority and/or operating authority to the following institutions:

Not-For-Profit

Franciscan University of Steubenville

- Operating Authority in the Fox Valley Region

For Profit:

Northwestern College-Southwest

- Associate in Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography in the South Metro Region
- Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant in the South Metro Region

Vatterott College

- Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assistant with an emphasis in Office Management in the Western Region
- Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assistant with an emphasis in Ophthalmic Technology in the Western Region

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 three institutions.

Franciscan University of Steubenville
1235 University Boulevard
Steubenville, Ohio 43952
President: Reverend (Fr.) Sean Sheridan

Seeking Operating Authority: Fox Valley Region

Projected Enrollments: Franciscan University of Steubenville projects enrollments of ten students in the first year, rising to 40 students by the fifth year.

Institutional Accreditation: Franciscan University of Steubenville is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Its last accreditation took place in 2004 and the next review is scheduled for 2015. The University is currently in good standing with the accrediting agency.

Background and History

With this proposal, Franciscan University of Steubenville (FUS or the University) is seeking authority to operate in the Fox Valley Region. The proposed site is to be housed in the Newman Catholic Student Center, located in the immediate vicinity of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. The mission of FUS is to further the higher education of men and women through programs of liberal, professional, and pre-professional studies leading to the conferral of the baccalaureate and master degrees in the arts and sciences. It is the further purpose of the University, publicly identified as a Catholic and a Franciscan institution, to promote the moral, spiritual, and religious values of its students.

Immediately following the end of World War II, the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular established the Franciscan College of Steubenville in 1946. The group acquired land for its permanent site in 1953. This would become what would later be known as the Franciscan University of Steubenville, in Steubenville, Ohio in 1985. By 2004, over 2,400 students, including 440 enrolled in its graduate programs, attended the university. Although FUS is a Roman Catholic institution, its doors are open to persons of any faith, creed, race, ethnicity, disability status, and socioeconomic status.

Mission and Objectives

Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the objectives of the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.

Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives, and mission of the institution.

The proposal is consistent with the University's mission "to further the higher education of men and women through programs of liberal, professional and pre-professional studies leading to the conferral of the baccalaureate and master degrees in the arts and sciences" and "to promote the moral, spiritual, and religious values of its students . . . guided by the example and teaching of St. Francis of Assisi." The University believes that its mission extends to teaching beyond the matriculating student body and commits itself to an ethic of hospitality.

Curriculum/Assessment

Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) 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

All applicants must have a high school diploma or the equivalent from an accredited institution, as well as an SAT score of 1,000 or higher or an ACT composite score of 21 or higher. FUS admits homeschooled students under the following conditions: evidence of participation in an approved home-school program, including official seal and signature; documentation showing those home-school program courses that fulfill the University's high school course requirements; and required SAT or ACT score reports. Transfer students who have attended other colleges and universities must have received a cumulative college grade point average of 2.2 or higher after completing at least 24 college level credits from an accredited institution. Non-degree students wishing to attend Franciscan University and who have not

already obtained a college degree must follow the same procedure as a first-time or transfer student.

Curriculum

Instructional activities at the proposed site will not result in degrees being granted or license awarded. Instead, in association with the local Newman Catholic Student Center in the Fox Valley Region, FUS will offer 15-week credit-bearing, face-to-face classes in Theology and Catechetics. A total of 13 classes have been proposed for this site.

Assessment of Student Learning

The University has established policies for assessment of student learning outcomes. It is committed to providing critical and objective assessment of its students and their learning. Learning outcomes are identified for each course objective. Course objectives will be evaluated through classroom discussions, homework, tests, projects, oral or written works, and other established performance assessments.

Program Assessment

The University has established policies and procedures for ongoing institutional and program level assessment and review. As faculty members are hired, they will be involved with administrators in strategic planning and evaluation of programs. Data collection, in the form of course assessments, program outcomes, and other measures of institutional effectiveness, will be used to evaluate progress toward institutional and program goals. Faculty and student input will be actively solicited on a regular basis.

Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)

Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.

The facilities at the Newman Catholic Student Center, built in 1961, include two dedicated classrooms with the seating capacity for 60 and an administrative unit of 1,500 square feet with office and meeting spaces. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between FUS and the Newman Catholic Student Center for accommodating the activities of the proposed site. The memorandum notes that the Newman Catholic Student Center and Franciscan University of Steubenville “agree to cooperate to provide a limited number of classes at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 512 Normal Road, DeKalb, IL 60115. These courses shall be regular FUS courses and will be taught at the Newman Catholic Student Center.” The Newman Catholic Student Center is ADA compliant and meets all safety requirements for local and state fire ordinances.

Faculty and Staff

Criterion 1030.60(a)(6) 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.

FUS has submitted a plan to hire adjunct faculty to teach its outreach classes. The University will ensure these faculty members are qualified to provide instructions for the subjects

in which they are hired. The adjunct faculty will also be required to receive the Mandatum from the local Bishop. All adjunct faculty being considered for the proposed site will have a minimum of Master's degree in Divinity, Master's degree in Theology, another master's degree related to the field, or a higher degree.

Fiscal/Personnel Resources

Criterion 1030.60(a)(8) 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 Fox Valley site is an outreach to students and community members who may want to take credit-bearing courses provided by FUS on behalf of the Catholic Church. The program will be self-sustaining. All facilities expenses and other site-specific costs will be underwritten by the Newman Catholic Student Center. The proposed site has the full support of the main campus for its financial operations.

Accreditation/Licensure

The proposed site does not require any accreditation and/or licensure separate from the institutional accreditation; FUS has institutional accreditation through the HLC.

Program Information

Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) 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.

Detailed admission and program descriptions submitted as part of the application provide information regarding college policies, fees, and related requirements necessary to enable prospective students to make an informed decision to enroll in the programs.

Staff Conclusion. The staff concludes that Franciscan University of Steubenville and its request for the certificate of approval and authorization to operate 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.

Northwestern College-Southwest
9501 Technology Boulevard, Suite 425
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
President: Mr. Lawrence Schumacher

Proposed Program Title in Region of Authorization: Associate in Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography in the South Metro Region

Projected Enrollments: Northwestern College-Southwest projects enrollments of ten students in the first year, increasing to 19 students by the fifth year.

Proposed Program Title in Region of Authorization: Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant in the South Metro Region

Projected Enrollments: Northwestern College-Southwest projects enrollments of 24 students in the first year, increasing to 50 students by the fifth year.

Institutional Accreditation: Northwestern College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

Background and History

Northwestern College (the College) was founded as Northwestern Business College (NBC) in 1902 and is a privately owned, for-profit institution. The College originally opened in Chicago with offerings in accounting and stenography. In 1973, NBC received degree-granting authority from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). It later added a second campus in Bridgeview, which is referred to as Northwestern College-Southwest. In 2007 the name was changed from Northwestern Business College to Northwestern College. With this application, Northwestern College-Southwest is seeking approval for degree-granting authority to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ADMS) and the Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (APTA) in the South Metro Region.

Mission and Objectives

Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the objectives for the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.

Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) 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 Northwestern College's mission to provide relevant and future-focused curricula and integrate general studies. The College's vision is to encourage, prepare, and empower a diverse student body for the pursuit of professional and educational goals. Through its educational programs that aim to foster integrity, commitment to academic excellence, and student-centered learning community, the College aspires to provide a vital human resource for the ever-changing society. The requested degree titles are congruent with the corresponding degree program objectives and their curriculum.

Curriculum/Assessment

Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) 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

Northwestern College-Southwest's admission is open to any person without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, religion, linguistic, or socioeconomic backgrounds. To be eligible for admission, applicants are required to have: a high school diploma or equivalent; two letters of recommendation from an instructor, academic advisor, employer, or coworker; high school and/or

college cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher; two years of high school math and science with grades of “C” or higher or evidence of college math and/or science course at the 100 level or higher with grade(s) of “C” or higher; ACT composite score of 20 or higher or SAT composite score of 950 or higher or COMPASS minimum scores required (Reading: 83; Writing: 85; Math: 70). Applicants may receive transfer of credit for coursework completed at another accredited college or university.

Acceptance into these programs is predicated on applicants’ successful completion of the following requirements by the published deadline and at their own expense: record of a physical exam, immunizations, drug screening, TB screening and other labs, successful background check, liability insurance, health insurance, current American Heart Association healthcare provider CPR/AED, and Heart-Saver First Aid card.

Curricula

Associate in Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The Associate in Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ADMS) program requires students to complete 102 quarter hours, including 26 hours of general education, 51 hours of core, ten hours of electives, and 15 hours of practicum. Graduates of the program will be qualified to enter the profession as an entry level sonographer. A sonographer specializes in the use of ultrasound to perform a wide variety of procedures for use in the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, diseases, and injuries.

Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

The Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (APTA) program requires students to complete 109 quarter hours, including 34 hours of general education, 55 hours of core, and 20 hours of practicum. The 20 credit hours of practicum are required by the programmatic accreditor, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The three separate clinical experiences required in the program also fulfill the State of Illinois Physical Therapist Assistant licensing requirement of at least 600 hours of clinical education.

Assessment of Student Learning

Every program at Northwestern College has stated goals and intended learning outcomes which are developed by program directors, program coordinators, and faculty. The program goals are published in the college catalog and on information sheets distributed to potential new students. Course syllabi include performance assessment criteria. Instructors assess student learning with direct measures such as exams, papers, and presentations. Student performance and experience are also assessed indirectly through student, alumni, and employer surveys as well as externship and placement data.

Program Assessment

Academic programs at Northwestern College are run autonomously, with directors charged with developing and implementing assessment plans which address student learning within their specific disciplines. The College Assessment Committee requires every program director to create a curriculum map which shows the connection between program goals, intended learning outcomes, and courses. Curriculum maps illustrate where a program’s content is

introduced, where it is reinforced, and where it is incorporated in a capstone/summative manner. In order to create the curriculum maps, program directors, program coordinators, and faculty members discuss the attitudes, skills, and knowledge students should acquire upon completion of the program. The plans have been designed to assure employers that graduates have acquired the appropriate aptitudes, skills, and knowledge of the discipline.

The curriculum review process includes course design evaluations conducted by faculty which ensure that descriptions, objectives, and performance assessments are appropriate for the course's place within the curriculum. This process lays the groundwork for incorporating course-level assessment of student learning into program level assessment plans. The process of developing program-level plans for assessing student learning includes the faculty in discussions about which existing, course-specific assessment methods might combine effectively with indirect, institutional assessment measures such as employer and alumni surveys.

Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)

Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.

For the ADMS program, the Bridgeview campus has the facilities adequate for running the program. Sufficient classrooms and computer labs which include appropriate technology and equipment are available. Quotes have been obtained for an ultrasound unit, with the assurance that the equipment will be purchased upon program approval. Classrooms are also equipped with LCD projectors, computers, and overhead projectors.

For the APTA Program, the Bridgeview campus has adequate facilities to run the program. The space consists of classrooms, laboratory space, storage space, library facilities, and computer labs. The College will purchase the appropriate physical therapy equipment at a cost of approximately \$95,000. Classrooms are equipped with LCD projectors, computers, and overhead projectors. Available space includes an auditorium (2,440 square feet), student lounge (3,060 square feet), and an Advising Center (1,071 square feet).

The College provides library facilities on all campuses. In 1991, Northwestern College established the Edward G. Schumacher (E.G.S.) Memorial Library. Services in the library include reference assistance, bibliographic instruction for individuals and groups, and interlibrary loans through the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) for students, faculty, and staff. The library is a member of Reaching Across Illinois Library System and the OCLC. Through the College's membership in the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, the E.G.S. Memorial Library has reciprocal services with libraries at these member colleges and is able to provide additional resources to the College's students.

Faculty and Staff

Criterion 1030.60(a)(6) 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.

Northwestern College-Southwest has identified institutional policies that ensure academic professionals hired possess the training, credentials, and other related qualifications required to provide instruction at the institution. Faculty teaching in the proposed programs will have the appropriate qualifications. A formal faculty evaluation process is in place.

Fiscal and Personnel Resources

Criterion 1030.60(a)(8) 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.

Northwestern College-Southwest has submitted fiscal plans indicating tuition revenue exceeds, and will continue to exceed, operating expenditures beginning the first year of the proposed programs.

Accreditation/Licensure

Northwestern College-Southwest has given the assurance that the process for accreditation of the proposed Physical Therapist Assistant program through the CAPTE will begin immediately after IBHE grants approval for the program. Similarly, the process for accreditation of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program will begin immediately after the IBHE grants approval for the program. At that time, Northwestern College will submit an application for initial accreditation to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Program Information

Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) provides that the information which 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. Such information shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.

The College catalog provides accurate information regarding the College's policies, admissions procedures, tuition, fees, and refund policies. The materials provided on the proposed programs are in keeping with the other programs offered by Northwestern College-Southwest. The materials identify objectives, course requirements, and statements on accreditation.

Staff Conclusion. The staff concludes that Northwestern College-Southwest and its proposed degree 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.

Vatterott College
3609 North Marx
Quincy, Illinois 62305
President: Ms. Pamela Bell

Proposed Program Title in Region of Authorization: Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assistant with an emphasis in Office Management in the Western Region

Projected Enrollments: Vatterott College projects and enrollment of 25 students in the first year rising to 35 students by the fifth year.

Proposed Program Title in Region of Authorization: Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assistant with an emphasis in Ophthalmic Technology in the Western Region

Projected Enrollments: Vatterott College projects and enrollment of 25 students in the first year rising to 35 students by the fifth year.

Institutional Accreditation: Vatterott College – Quincy was granted initial accreditation by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) on December 8, 2009. On December 7, 2011, ACCSC granted a five year renewal of the institution’s accreditation.

Background and History

Vatterott College (the College) was established in 1969 in St. Louis, Missouri. Originally named Urban Technical Centers, Inc., it has subsequently done business as both Vatterott & Sullivan Educational Center and Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc. The institution changed its name to Vatterott College in 1989 when associate degree (specialized) granting authority was issued by the Accrediting Commission of National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. The Vatterott College – Quincy campus was purchased from Quincy Technical Schools in May of 1995 by Vatterott College. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) granted the campus Operating and Degree-Granting Authority on June 8, 2005.

Vatterott College is proposing two new degree programs at the Quincy campus: Medical Assistant with Office Management and Medical Assistant with Ophthalmic Technology. These two programs are designed to provide students with the necessary skills to immediately obtain employment in the medical field upon graduation.

Mission and Objectives

Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the objectives for the degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title(s) implies.

Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.

The proposed programs fit with Vatterott College’s primary mission to provide graduates with quality career training in high-demand fields. This mission includes a commitment to programs that are designed to provide the basic skills and understanding of common techniques and procedures required for employability. By considering both industry requirements and student needs, Vatterott College attempts to create programs that fit into students’ life-styles and “allow them to achieve a better life.”

Both the Medical Assistant with Office Management and Medical Assistant with Ophthalmic Technology degrees support this College mission. The objective of the Office Management program is to enhance students’ medical knowledge and provide them the skills necessary for entry-level management positions in the medical assistant field in such areas as private medical offices, medical clinics, or hospitals. The objective of the Ophthalmic Technology program is to prepare individuals to provide support services under the supervision of a licensed physician specializing in ophthalmology. The objectives of the degree programs are consistent with what their titles imply.

Curriculum/Assessment

Criterion 1030.60(a)(4) 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

All applicants are required to complete a personal interview with an education coordinator, either in person or by telephone, depending upon the distance from the institution. Applicants are also required to submit an application, reference form, all previous transcripts, and an enrollment agreement. Vatterott College will evaluate the student's previous education, training, and work experience to determine if any subjects or training activities may be waived. Credits earned at an accredited postsecondary institution may be accepted on the basis of a valid transcript provided by the student.

Curricula

Medical Assistant with Office Management

This program is designed to enhance the student's medical knowledge and to provide the student with the skills necessary for entry-level management positions in the medical assistant field in private medical offices, medical clinics, or hospitals. General education coursework focuses on math and writing skills. This 70-week program will consist of lecture, lab, and an externship experience with a total of 102 quarter credit hours.

Medical Assistant with Ophthalmic Technology

This program will prepare individuals to provide support services under the supervision of a licensed physician specializing in ophthalmology. General education coursework focuses in math and writing skills. This 70-week program will consist of lecture, lab, and an externship experience with a total of 103 quarter credit hours.

Assessment of Student Learning

Assessment of student learning is based on established student learning outcomes for each of the required courses. Course instructors are the primary evaluators of student progress and achievement. Instructor observations in the laboratory setting determine how well the student has grasped the theory and practical applications of the material. Assessment will occur through review of student learning products, such as papers and projects, with faculty-developed rubrics and through laboratory observations. At any time during the training cycle, instructors can bring any perceived student deficiencies to the attention of the program director or Director of Education in order for a plan of action to be developed to improve the student's progress and achievement.

Program Assessment

To ensure student learning outcomes reflect the necessary occupational and academic knowledge, skills, and competencies Vatterott College holds two to four meetings per year with a Program Advisory Committee comprising professionals in the medical assistant field who are currently working or hiring employees. Their feedback is reviewed and commented upon at the institutional level. A curriculum committee then reviews each program to ensure student learning

outcomes reflect the necessary occupational and academic knowledge, skills, and competencies for each course. Student course evaluations, faculty evaluations, and student placement trends will also be considered during this programmatic review.

In addition, faculty and staff development is a component in the College's Institutional Assessment and Improvement Plan which includes specific benchmarks, timelines, and goals in areas such as continuing education in the subject areas(s) taught, teaching skill development and enhancement, instructional methodology, membership in trade and professional organizations, attendance at trade and professional meetings, faculty meetings to encourage professional growth, and other elements appropriate for the ongoing development of faculty.

Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)

Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.

The Quincy facility occupies 33,000 square feet in a one-story building that houses labs, classrooms, administrative offices, admissions department, financial aid office, and career services offices. The Medical Assistant program's lab space occupies 1,400 square feet. The maximum class size for this space is limited to 25 students. Classroom space for the two proposed degree programs is also available. All classrooms will have a computer, projector, and whiteboard. The Learning Resource Center has computers with Internet access and the school provides wireless access for students. The labs contain all equipment necessary for students to receive hands-on training. The library contains print materials including journals, newspapers, and books. Audio-visual materials include DVDs, CD-ROMs, and VHS. EBSCOhost database is also available for accessing online journals and other resources. The facility is in compliance with all applicable laws and has procured the proper licensing, including the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshall Fire Inspection Report.

Faculty and Staff

Criterion 1030.60(a)(6) 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.

Vatterott College has identified institutional policies that ensure academic professionals hired possess the training, credentials, and other related qualifications in order to provide instruction at the institution. Faculty teaching in the proposed programs will have the appropriate qualifications. A formal faculty evaluation process is in place.

Fiscal/Personnel Resources

Criterion 1030.60(a)(8) 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.

Vatterott College has submitted projected fiscal plans indicating that revenues from tuition and fees will exceed projected operating expenditures beginning in the first year of operation.

Accreditation/Licensure

Specialized accreditation of the Medical Assistant programs is available through the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools or through the Commission Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The Vatterott College Quincy campus has indicated that it plans to seek programmatic accreditation after receiving approvals from IBHE and ACCSC. The College would prepare and submit the requisite written documentation to the programmatic accreditor in the months following the beginning of the program. Thereafter, an on-site visit would be scheduled at some time after the initial enrollees have completed approximately half of the program and begun clinical work (this is a requirement of the programmatic accreditors, so that they may evaluate the clinical elements of the program in operation). In all, the process of programmatic accreditation usually takes 12 to 18 months to successfully complete.

Program Information

Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) 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.

Detailed information and program descriptions submitted as part of the application provide accurate information regarding Vatterott College's academic policies, admissions procedures, tuition, fees, and refund policies. The materials provided on the proposed program are consistent with other information provided by the institution. 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 Vatterott College and its proposed degree 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.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Franciscan University of Steubenville the Certificate of Approval and Authorization to Operate in the Fox Valley Region subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and the form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Northwestern College-Southwest Authorization to Grant the Associate in Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the Associate in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant in the South Metro Region 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 grants to Vatterott College Authorization to Grant the Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assistant with an emphasis in Office Management and the Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assistant with an emphasis in Ophthalmic Technology in the Western Region 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.

