

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education

---

30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602-2504  
(800) 621-7440

## RECORD OF STATUS AND SCOPE

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY  
One University Plaza  
Youngstown, OH 44555-3101

### *Statement of Affiliation Status*

*Status:* Accredited (1945- .)

*Highest degree awarded:* Doctor's.

*Most recent action:* November 13, 1998.

*Stipulations on affiliation status:* Accreditation at the Doctor's degree level is limited to the Ed.D. degree in Educational Leadership.

*New degree sites:* No prior Commission approval required for offering existing courses and degree programs within a 100-mile radius of the Youngstown campus in Ohio and the three adjoining counties in western Pennsylvania, which is defined as the regional service area for the university.

*Progress reports required:* 7/1/01; A report on the progress made in implementing a coherent curriculum for general education; (2) on the progress made in improving the representation of minorities among the faculty, staff, and student body.

*Monitoring reports required:* None.

*Contingency reports required:* None.

*Other visits required:* None.

*Last comprehensive evaluation:* 1997-98.

*Next comprehensive evaluation:* 2007-08.

### *Statement of Institutional Scope and Activities*

**Legal status:** Public institution.

**F/97 undergraduate enrollment:** 11146(h); 9347(f).

**F/97 graduate enrollment:** 1178(h); 600(f).

**Number of degree programs:** Associate's (23); Bachelor's (81); Master's (28); Doctor's (1).

**Full service degree sites other than home campus:** None.

**Other degree sites:**

— **In state:** Elyria (Lorain County Community College).

**Course sites:**

— **In state:** 4 sites.

— **In other states:** Western, PA.

**Distance education:** None.

.....

Strengths (not in any order of significance or priority)

1. The university has attractive, well-maintained physical facilities, including new residence halls, with comparatively modest deferred maintenance problems.
2. There is a strong, shared, and operative sense of a metropolitan mission among all university constituencies, backed by strategic planning at the institutional, college, and departmental levels.
3. The university is characterized by capable and effective presidential and administrative leadership, supported by a competent and committed Board of Trustees.
4. Strong university partnerships have been established with the community.
5. The self-study process, involving effectively all campus constituencies, led to an effective evaluation of institutional strengths and concerns.
6. The university implemented a successful downsizing plan and process which has eliminated the gap between expenditures and revenues resulting from a demographically-induced decline in enrollment.

7. The university has a dedicated, hard-working, student-oriented faculty.
8. There is good, continuing financial support from the state for capital projects, deferred maintenance, and equipment acquisitions.
9. The university has a highly-motivated, hard-working, and serious student body that recognizes the value and importance of additional education.
10. The YSU Foundation endowment (\$107 million) is comparatively large for an institution of this nature, and it is being used effectively for broad-based student aid and to augment state support in critical areas such as the installation of the "electronic campus."

**Challenges** (not in any order of significance or priority)

1. The General Education issues, identified in the report from the previous (1988) comprehensive evaluation, have not been totally resolved.
2. Minorities continue to be underrepresented among the faculty, staff, and students, particularly for an institution with a metropolitan mission.

- .....
3. The assessment of student outcomes is uneven across the university in terms of its impact on student learning and program enhancement.
  4. The enrollment decline at the undergraduate level, in spite of the funding floor provided by the state, remains a concern in terms of the long-run financial viability of the university.

### **PART III: ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS**

Members of NCA teams serve in a dual role as evaluators and consultants. In this section, advice and insights are offered by team members. The statements which follow are advisory and not requirements or conditions of accreditation.

1. The university should move as rapidly as possible to offer curricula in all areas which employ the use of computer technology, building skills systematically from entry- to advanced-level understanding, with appropriate applications to the students' areas of study.
2. The university should evaluate the objectives of university diversity among the student body and faculty and staff by having the president establish a task force which would

.....

have high visibility and be given specific authority to identify actions and strategies to improve representation.

3. The evaluation team urges the university to examine in a systematic and consultative fashion the balance of student enrollment, program need, and resource allocation, particularly in terms of the assignment of faculty lines, as resources are released from the early retirement plans.
4. The evaluation team encourages the university to increase support for the development of grant and contract funding and state audit requirements.
5. The evaluation team suggests that there be more communication to the campus about the processes being employed to identify new or replacement positions as monies are being generated from the retirement initiatives, recognizing the necessity that these funds must be controlled centrally to close the budget gap.
6. The university should consider an expansion of library hours during the academic year to meet the needs of working students and prior to and during examination periods for all students.

- .....
7. The university should investigate means by which library staff may be recognized or rewarded for continuing professional development.
  
  8. The Rayen College of Engineering and Technology should consider developing a college initiative for student recruitment which effectively employs all faculty and departments in an overall effort, including the scheduling of career fairs at regional schools for interested or prospective engineering students. Adding a student representative to the college curriculum committee and developing a more effective job counseling program will assist in making the college more attractive to students.

.....

## **PART IV: RECOMMENDATION**

### **Introduction**

The evaluation team finds Youngstown State University meets the General Institutional Requirements and the five criteria for accreditation.

### **Recommendation**

The evaluation team's recommendations for action, including its recommendation to continue accreditation of Youngstown State University at the doctoral level in the Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership and to schedule the next comprehensive examination in 2007-08, are shown on the attached worksheet for the Statement of Affiliation Status. The evaluation team also recommends that two progress reports be submitted by July 1, 2001. The first report should focus on the progress made by the university in implementing a coherent curriculum for general education. The second report should focus on progress made in improving the representation of minorities among the faculty, staff, and student body.

In the case of the general education curriculum, it should be fully implemented by fall of the year 2000. The report should not only explain the structure and educational objectives of the curriculum, but also clearly indicate how the courses and student learning experiences included

.....

meet these objectives. The report should conclude with an evaluation of student experiences to the extent the targeted learning objectives are realized in the first year of implementation.

Relative to the report on ethnic minority representation, the university will need to demonstrate that it has made progress on achieving a more diverse faculty, staff, and student body, as well as fully documenting the plans, strategies, and objectives established by the institution to meet the requirements of this report.

### **Rationale for the Next Comprehensive Examination**

The rationale for this recommendation is that the preponderance of evidence at this time suggests the institution overwhelmingly meets the general institutional requirements and the five accreditation criteria.

The university is characterized by many strengths, including excellent presidential and board leadership; a strong, shared, and operative sense of a metropolitan mission; a coordinating board and staff fully supportive of the university's sense of mission and purpose; strong partnerships with the local community and region; an excellent self-study process leading to an effective evaluation of strengths and concerns; a successful downsizing plan and process to address a demographically-induced decline in enrollment; a relatively large endowment being fully employed to assist the university with priority needs; a dedicated, hard-working, student-oriented



.....

faculty; a motivated student body; and well-maintained physical facilities with only modest deferred maintenance.

The university has addressed most of the long list of concerns which were raised at the time of the last comprehensive evaluation. This evaluation team identified only four (4) concerns, two of which are only partially under the control of the university. Two concerns are repeats. In the case of the representation of women and minorities in the administration and student diversity, progress has been made, but there is a need to focus on the representation of minorities, given the location of the university in the city of Youngstown, which has a much higher concentration of this group of people than the service region. The second concern about the general education curriculum is being addressed, but the advent of a switch to a semester system made it prudent to implement both the semester system and the new general education requirements simultaneously in the fall of the year 2000.

The evaluation team is confident that the university will address the concerns identified as a result of this comprehensive evaluation, because of the president's and board's record of leadership over the last six years. Over the first half of the past decade, prior to the appointment of the current president, the institution drifted, and the concerns expressed as a result of the previous comprehensive examination were not addressed. The agenda of the current president and board is very aggressive in raising standards and meeting challenges. Much has been accomplished under his tenure, as noted in the team's report and the opening paragraph of this

.....

rationale. Having met the president and the members of a very knowledgeable and supportive board, the evaluation team is of the opinion that the concerns identified will be addressed and the requirement to submit two progress reports will be taken seriously across the entire university.

### **Rationale for Progress Reports**

The concerns expressed about the general education requirement at the time of the 1988 comprehensive evaluation have not been fully addressed. Progress has been made in the past five years, but the proposed new requirements have not received final approval across the university and, even when approved, they will not be implemented until the fall of the year 2000, when the university switches from a quarter to a semester system. Therefore, the evaluation team recommends a progress report, as specified above, be submitted at the end of the first year of projected implementation or by July 1, 2001. A decade ago, two concerns were raised by the evaluation team about the representation of women and minorities in the administration and student diversity. Again, progress has been made over the past ten years, particularly with the employment of women, but the university needs to increase its efforts in terms of the representation of minorities on the faculty and staff, and in the student body. The evaluation team recommends a progress report, as specified above, be submitted on this issue in three years or by July 1, 2001.

---

**New Degree Sites**

The evaluation team recommends that, relative to the stipulation about new degree sites, the following change be made in the Statement of Affiliation:

No prior Commission approval required for offering existing courses and degree programs within a 100-mile radius of the Youngstown campus in Ohio and the three adjoining counties (Beaver, Lawrence, and Mercer) in western Pennsylvania, which are defined as part of the regional service area for the university.

**Rationale for Change in New Degree Sites.**

The university has successfully implemented a full degree program off site approximately 90 miles from the Youngstown campus. There is an identified need for selective programmatic outreach in northeastern Ohio and in the three adjoining counties in western Pennsylvania. The university is carefully considering how it will meet student demand and, given the overall success of its planning efforts and articulation of mission in its service region, the evaluation team is confident that additional off-site courses and degree programs offered within a 100-mile radius of the Youngstown campus within Ohio and the three adjoining counties in western Pennsylvania will meet quality standards.