Program Proposal
Associate Degree in Health Science
Major in Veterinary Technology
Piedmont Technical College

Summary

Piedmont Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Science degree with a major in Veterinary Technology, to be implemented in Fall 2008.

The proposal was approved by the State Technical College System's Board on January 22, 2008, and submitted to the Commission on February 11, 2008. The proposal was reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs on March 20, 2008, and approved unanimously without substantive comment

According to the proposal, the purpose of the program is to prepare graduates of the associate degree program to complete the licensure requirements for Veterinary Technology, so that they can meet the demands of employers in Piedmont Technical College's service area for this occupation. The institution notes that there is a strong demand for well-prepared veterinary technologists based largely on the growing importance of pets in affluent families. The U.S. Department of Labor Bureau Statistics estimates that the need for veterinary technicians will increase 35% by the year 2014.

The need for the program has been determined by a survey of local veterinarians and a potential major employer at a new facility in Greenwood County. Based upon the institutional survey, in the first three years of the program's operation, approximately 72 full-time positions will be available in the College's service region. In that same three-year period a total of 30 part-time positions are expected to be available. In addition, Newberry College discontinued its Veterinary Technology program in the College's service area. Subsequently, Newberry College approached Piedmont Technical College about assuming responsibility for the program and has provided assistance to the institution to implement it, including equipment and supplies.

Currently, there are only two other programs of this type in the South Carolina Technical College System. The programs are located at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton and Trident Technical College in Charleston. Both programs have reached the maximum allowable enrollment and are in good

standing for degree productivity. However, the institution reports that neither of the programs can meet the needs of the Piedmont region of the state.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 24 students (21.6 FTE) in 2008-2009, the first full year of the program, and increase to 38 (51.9 FTE) in 2009-2010, and to 41 (55.3 FTE) in 2010-2011. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

The Veterinary Technology program will require 72 credit hours of academic coursework. The proposed program is an expansion of the current Veterinary Technology certificate program offered at Piedmont Technical College. All courses listed in the proposed program are currently in the SBTCE Statewide Catalog of Approved Courses and will be added to the college's new catalog.

The proposed program is designed as a terminal degree. The College is open to articulating with Pre-Veterinary programs in the future. The College will seek accreditation through the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) of the American Veterinary Medication Association (AVMA) within the first year of the program. The program will also seek approval of the South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medicine since only graduates of an approved program may take the licensure examination.

The total new faculty required for the program will be two (2.0 FTE). The AVMA accreditation criteria require that a Veterinary Technology program have a minimum of one full-time licensed veterinarian and one full-time licensed veterinary technologist. There will be no new administrative or support staff required.

Piedmont Technical College anticipates spending a total of $2,100 over the first three years to purchase books, serials and audio-visual materials to support this program in Veterinary Technology. The proposal states that library and learning resources services are currently able to provide a variety of materials for this program because of the electronic databases which are available to students and faculty members through PASCAL.

No new additional physical plant requirements will be needed for this program. The proposed program will be located in a recently renovated space at Newberry County Center, which is a 35,000 square foot building located in the City of Newberry. The Center operates under a cooperative partnership with the county of Newberry in providing access to technology and building facilities for higher education.

No new major equipment purchases are anticipated for the program. The Piedmont Technical College Foundation negotiated the purchase equipment and supplies from Newberry College. New costs for the program are estimated to total $432,083 for the first three years. The categories for these operational costs include faculty salaries ($355,483), supplies and materials ($65,000), library resources ($2,100), and accreditation ($9,500).

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the State and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with the implementation of the proposed program for its first three years. Also shown are the estimated revenue projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	$409,411	$0	**$409,411**	N/A	$68,156	**$68,156**
Year 2	$981,577	$0	**$981,577**	$165,182	$162,883	**$328,065**
Year 3	$1,045,922	$0	**$1,045,922**	$395,404	$173,198	**$568,603**

These data demonstrate that if Piedmont Technical College can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the third year of its implementation. Nevertheless, the institution has provided assurances that it has the resources necessary to implement the program appropriately.

In summary, Piedmont Technical College proposes to offer a new program leading to an Associate in Health Science degree with a major in Veterinary Technology. The program will prepare graduates to meet the growing demand for well-prepared entry-level veterinary technologists in the College's service area.

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission the program leading to the Associate in Health Science degree with a major in Veterinary Technology at Piedmont Technical College, to be implemented in Fall 2008, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.