

New Program Proposal
Associate Degree in Health Sciences
Major in Emergency Medical Technology
Midlands Technical College

Summary

Midlands Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree with a major in Emergency Medical Technology, to be implemented Fall 2009.

The proposal was submitted to the Commission for review on May 14, 2008, and approved by the State Technical College System's Board on May 28, 2008. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs on July 17, 2008, and was approved unanimously.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates either as entry-level Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or to advance the careers of those already in the field who have only received non-credit training and/or non-degree educational preparation thus far. The need for the program is based on the demand by employers (both public and private) and on the increased level of education and training required for entering or career progression in the field. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) recent adoption of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) national standards for EMT has meant that a person in the field must take advanced training or an associate degree program. The fact that the advanced, non-academic, training option does not allow for financial aid will make the associate degree option much more appealing to many students. Based on a needs analysis survey conducted by the institution for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, there was a need for 357 full-time (new and replacement) and 54 part-time (new and replacement) positions in the EMT field in the college's service area.

The curriculum consists of 70 credit hours. Of these, 29 credits are in general education, 35 are in the major field, and six are electives. The curriculum has been designed to meet the USDOT standards recently adopted by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Center (DHEC). The proposed curriculum is similar in content to that offered by the three other technical colleges which have been approved to offer a program in this field. These institutions are Greenville-Technical College, Florence-Darlington Technical College and Horry-Georgetown Technical College, each of which has a different geographical

clientele from the proposed program at Midlands Technical College. A total of two new courses will be required for the proposed program.

The proposed program indicates that one new full-time faculty member will be hired in the first year of the program to act also as Program Director and Instructor. The full-time faculty member will have a bachelor's degree with a master's degree or higher preferred in a Health/Medical-related field, teaching experience, and administrative experience. A part-time administrative assistant and a student assistant/contract worker will be hired to assist with the programmatic administrative and clerical duties.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 24 headcount (22.8 FTE) in 2009-2010, the first full year of the program, increasing to 40 headcount (35.6 FTE) by FY 2010-2011, and to 40 (35.6 FTE) in 2011-2012. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

There will be no additional physical plant requirements for classrooms and office space required for the program. Office space for the program's faculty and staff will be in an existing office on the Airport Campus. However, the institution anticipates that EMT didactic instruction will require two regular classrooms and approximately 1,500 square feet of space for clinical lab and storage area.

The proposal indicates that the program is subject to accreditation. The institution will seek accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professionals (CoAEMSP). The CoAEMSP accreditation is expected to be awarded following the second year of program implementation, based on CoAEMSP candidacy and accreditation guidelines.

The College anticipates spending a total of \$15,212 within the first three years of the program's implementation to purchase books and serials to support the program. Six new EMT related serial titles will be selected and subscribed to during a three-year period. The proposal states that library and learning resources 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.

For the first three years of the program's operations, equipment costs are estimated to total \$18,000. Midlands Technical College has received a federal Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) grant, which allows some of the non-expendable and durable equipment purchased for use in the MTC EMT-Paramedic Certificate program to be utilized in the

proposed associate degree program. The DOLETA grant for \$49,914 will offset some of the cost for equipment. The reallocation of existing resources is approved and promoted by the DOLETA. The proposed program also indicates that a total of \$18,000 for three years for expendable supplies and materials will be necessary to support the program.

Total new costs are estimated by the institution at \$443,843 for the first three years of the program. The categories for these operational costs include faculty salaries (\$312,753), program administration (\$43,750), clerical/support personnel (\$42,127), supplies and materials (\$18,000), library resources (\$15,212), equipment (\$18,000), and accreditation (\$3,000).

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.

Estimated Program Costs and Revenue

	Estimated Program Costs		Estimated Program Revenue				(G) Total Revenue - Total Costs (F-(A+B))
	(A) MRR Cost	(B) Other Costs*	(C) Actual State Funding	(D) Tuition	(E) Additional Revenue	(F) Total Revenue (C+D+E)	
Year 1	\$257,663	\$0	N/A	\$79,200	\$16,638	\$95,838	-\$161,825
Year 2	\$402,316	\$0	\$115,722	\$123,504	\$16,638	\$255,864	-\$129,813
Year 3	\$402,316	\$0	\$180,760	\$123,504	\$16,638	\$320,902	-\$64,775

*Includes costs of an extraordinary nature not otherwise included in the MRR cost calculation (e.g., costs for a new building required to support a program).

These data demonstrate that if Midlands 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, Midlands Technical College proposes to offer a new program leading to an Associate in Health Science degree with a major in Emergency Medical Technology. The program will prepare graduates to meet the growing demand for emergency medical technologists prepared at the USDOT National standard level (as adopted by DHEC) 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 Emergency Medical Technology at Midlands Technical College, to be implemented in Fall 2009, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.