

**New Program Proposal**  
**Associate in Public Service in Early Care and Education**  
**Midlands Technical College**

**Summary**

Midlands Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Public Service degree in Early Care and Education with concentrations in Business Management and Instruction, to be implemented in Fall 2005.

The proposal was approved by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education on July 12, 2004, and submitted for Commission review on August 9, 2004. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on September 30, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to meet the needs of the early childhood industry within the Midlands Technical College service area. Program graduates will be employed by area childcare centers and both public and private faith-based organizations providing child care services. The intent of the program is occupational, and consequently it does not lead to teacher licensure or certification, nor is the program intended or designed to articulate with teacher education programs at four-year institutions.

Research in the area of Early Childhood Education illuminates the need for high-quality childcare programs, and in particular the need for personnel with specific training that targets the unique developmental needs of children from the ages of three to five. Nationally, recent Head Start legislation has placed greater emphasis on advanced educational levels for their teachers by requiring “at least half of all Head Start teachers in center-based programs to have an A.A., B.A., or advanced degree in Early Childhood Education or in a related field with preschool teaching experience.” Locally, South Carolina’s First Steps to School Readiness program has emphasized quality training for its childcare providers.

The proposal cites statistics from “Interfaith Community Services” (a childcare monitoring agency), noting that within the institution’s service area there are 320 licensed childcare centers and homes, employing nearly 2,300 staff members. These organizations and small businesses project that in each of the next three years they will need approximately 174 full-time and 85 part-time

employees. It is also expected that local public schools will recruit graduates of the program to work as teacher assistants.

Across South Carolina there are ten technical colleges offering the Associate Degree in Early Care and Education. Midlands Technical College currently offers an eighteen-semester hour Certificate in Early Childhood Development, and the proposal notes that the 65 students currently enrolled in that course of study are expected to continue working toward the proposed Associate degree. Enrollment in the program is also expected to result from Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) scholarships that are administered through the “Center for Childcare Career Development,” which administers statewide early child care training through the 16 state technical colleges in South Carolina. Total projected enrollment during the first year is 60 headcount students (40 new students and 20 currently enrolled in other programs at the institution), with approximately 100 students enrolled during the second year. The proposal’s enrollment estimates account for the annual rate of attrition, which ranges from 10 to 30 percent.

The proposed program meets the Technical Education System’s curriculum model requirements for this major, and requires a total of 66 semester hours of credit which include: 36 semester hours in early childhood development; 15 semester hours in general education; 12 semester hours in electives; and three semester hours in computer technology. New courses for the program include Family and Community Relations (ECD 108); Administration and Supervision (ECD 109); Principals of Ethics and Leadership in Early Child Care and Education (ECD 201); Methods and Materials (ECD 237); Supervised Field Experience 1 (ECD 243); and Diversity Issues in ECE (ECD 252).

Currently, Midland Technical College employs seven part-time faculty serving in an adjunct capacity to deliver the eighteen hour Certificate in Early Childhood Development. The proposal suggests a reconfiguration of faculty assignments to one full-time faculty member and four part-time adjunct faculty. This reconfiguration would require the hiring of one full-time instructor. All current and proposed future faculty have at least a Master’s degree in the field of Early Childhood Education. No additional administrative or support staff will be needed to deliver the program.

The proposal states that the only new equipment needed to implement the program are a computer and printer for an additional faculty member, at an estimated cost of \$2,500. Also, computer software will be needed for years two and three at an estimated cost of \$800/year. Thus, the total cost of equipment for the first three years is estimated at \$4,100. The proposal notes that local funding sources should be sufficient to accommodate these equipment costs.

The proposal also anticipates a need to expand library offerings (40 new books over three years, the addition of several journal subscriptions, and the acquisition of several instructional videos each year) at an estimated total cost over three years of \$7,950. Current library services and resources exceed Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) standards and requirements.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$94,150 in the first year, decreasing to \$92,450 in the second and third years of the program. Categories of costs over the first three years of the program's implementation include faculty salaries (\$252,000); supplies and materials (\$15,000); library resources (\$7,950); and equipment (\$4,100). Total estimated new costs for the program during the first three years will be \$279,050.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first three years. Also shown are the estimated revenues 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
2004-05	\$581,920	\$0	<b>\$581,920</b>	\$0	\$244,390	<b>\$244,390</b>
2005-06	\$814,688	\$0	<b>\$814,688</b>	150,170	\$342,256	<b>\$492,426</b>
2006-07	\$814,688	\$0	<b>\$814,688</b>	210,217	\$342,256	<b>\$552,473</b>

These data demonstrate that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover costs during each of its first three years.

In summary, the institution will offer a program leading to the A.P.S. degree in Early Care and Education. Graduates of the program will acquire both instructional and business management skills enabling them to function effectively in public and private childcare organizations while meeting the growing need for effective childcare services in the South Carolina midlands region.

**Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Midlands Technical College's proposed program leading to

the Associate in Public Service degree in Early Care and Education with concentrations in Business Management and Instruction for implementation in Fall 2005, provided that 1) no additional “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested; and 2) provided further that all advisement by faculty and staff as well as all published literature indicate that, while some courses may transfer, the program is not a college transfer program and does not lead to teacher licensure or certification.