

**New Program Proposal
Associate in Industrial Technology
Major in Building Construction Technology
Midlands Technical College**

Summary

Midlands Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Industrial Technology degree with a major in Building Construction Technology to be implemented in Spring 2005.

The State Technical College System's Board approved the proposal on July 12, 2004. The proposal was submitted for Commission review on August 9, 2004. The proposal was reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on September 30, 2004. At the Advisory Committee's meeting the representative from Clemson University requested clarification on the purpose of the program, since Clemson was interested in articulating the program with its own bachelor's-level degree in Construction Science. Also, in response to questions from the Advisory group, the representative from Midlands Technical College drew a distinction between "supervisory" and "management" skills, stating that the proposal is for training personnel for supervisory, not management, positions in the construction industry.

The dialogue of the Advisory Committee meeting led to change in the proposal. The representative from Midlands Technical College agreed to work with Clemson's faculty experts to develop articulation options in using other Midlands Technical College degree programs for students wishing to pursue Clemson's B.S. degree in Construction Science and Management. However, the institution has reaffirmed that this proposed program is occupational, rather than transfer-oriented, in nature. Thus, no articulation agreement will be developed for students enrolled in this program, but any student with this goal in mind will be individually counseled to select higher level coursework than what the program requires. In recognition of issues raised during the Advisory Committee's discussion, the College agreed to amend the program's proposed curriculum by adding a course in Construction Project Management, thus raising the number of semester hours in the program from 62, as found in the original proposal, to 65.

The proposed degree program will build on an existing Certificate program in Carpentry. In addition, according to the proposal, the program will complement two of the existing programs in the industrial technologies in addition to carpentry. These are: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (which also has an associate degree in the field); and Industrial Electricity. Its curriculum will be designed to meet national standards in areas of the craft specialties.

The need for the program is based upon information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission showing base employment for 106,730 in the construction industry in South Carolina, and a projected statewide need for an additional 14,930 persons employed in the construction industry between now and 2008. Local employment needs in the Midlands Technical College service area are more difficult to establish, according to the proposal, since local construction firms were reluctant to share needs data for potential large-scale projects.

As stated above, the amended curriculum will consist of 65 semester hours. Of these, 15 will be in general education; 35 in building construction; three will be in computer technology; and a minimum of 12 will be in approved concentrated electives. One new course, already in the State Technical College System's database, will be added to the College's catalog of approved courses.

There are two other programs of this type in South Carolina at two other technical colleges. The existing program at Piedmont Technical College is relatively small (a three-year average of seven graduates) but meets the Commission's productivity standards; the one at Technical College of the Lowcountry is in a status currently of "Probation-1," according to the proposal.

No new faculty members will be required for the new program. The current complement of three faculty members (one full-time and two part-time; 1.50 FTE) in the Carpentry certificate and diploma programs are enough for the first three-year period, according to the proposal. If additional faculty are needed, adjuncts will be hired.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 37 headcount students (58 FTE) in FY 2005-2006 and increase to 65 headcount students (73 FTE) by FY 2006-2007 and thereafter. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards. The program will be open to students with no construction training or experience, as well as to those with either employment experience in the industry and/or those with a certificate in carpentry from Midlands Technical College.

The program will not seek accreditation or specialized certification. It will, however, seek to align its curriculum with national standards of certain craft groups.

There are no physical plant additions required for the proposed program. The proposal indicates that equipment costs for the first three years are anticipated to be \$10,000. Other categories of costs include adjunct faculty salaries (\$27,000); supplies and materials (\$3,000); and library resources (\$6,000). Estimated costs are expected to begin at \$14,000 in year one and to increase to \$16,000 in each of years two and three. The total estimated for new costs is \$46,000 for the first five years of the program's operation.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the Mission Resource Requirement 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
2005-06	\$267,168	0	\$267,168	0	\$177,621	\$177,621
2006-07	331,694	0	\$331,694	\$68,931	220,608	\$289,539
2007-08	335,996	0	\$335,996	85,555	223,160	\$308,715
2008-09	335,996	0	\$335,996	85,555	223,160	\$308,715
2009-10	335,996	0	\$335,996	85,555	223,160	\$308,715

These data demonstrate that if enrollment projections are reached as estimated in the program proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the fifth year of its implementation.

In summary, Midlands Technical College proposes to offer the Associate in Industrial Technology degree with a Major in Building Construction Technology. This degree will allow students to serve in a supervisory, but not management, capacity in sophisticated construction settings. The program is not designed for articulation to a four-year baccalaureate degree. The program is designed to produce graduates who will meet the needs of the construction industry statewide and in the Midlands service area.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the program leading to the Associate in Industrial Technology degree with a Major in Building Construction Technology, to be implemented in Fall 2005, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.