

Program Planning Summary
State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
(Not to exceed three pages in length)

1. College: Horry-Georgetown Technical College

2. Award: Associate Degree in Health Science

3. Major: Occupational Therapy Assistant

4. Designation (check one)

a. New Program Proposal

74 Number of credit hours

b. Program Modification

Number of credit hours

5. Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall Semester, 2008

6. Justification of Need:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College's (HGTC) mission is to provide quality education programs and career options that meet the workforce development needs of employers in the service area. In support of this mission, HGTC proposes to implement an Associate Degree in Health Science with a major in Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) to assist rehabilitative health care providers in Horry and Georgetown counties.

The Horry-Georgetown area has one of the highest-ranking general population increases in the state with a growth rate significantly above the state average according to US Census data for the period of 2000 through 2006. South Carolina experienced a 7.7% population increase from 2000 to 2006 with a 12.6% population increase in the 65 or older age category, which is the majority population for health care services. Respectively, Horry and Georgetown counties experienced an overall population growth of 21.3% and 9.1% that contributed to the 15.9% and 17.4% increase in residents who are ages 65 or older during that same period.

The US Department of Labor projects an estimated increase of OTA job openings of over 34% or 10,000 additional employees during the period of 2004 through 2014. South Carolina is projected to experience a 31% increase in OTA job openings during this time. Additionally, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employment in this occupation is projected to "grow much faster than the average" reflecting the mounting number of individuals with disabilities or limited function and the increasing use of OTAs in an effort to control rising health care costs. The national, state, and local growth will require well-qualified professionals to meet the continuing demands of our health care providers.

Several health care entities have informed HGTC's staff that they are limited in the timeliness of service delivery by the lack of qualified OTAs. In response to their increased demand for qualified employees, a needs assessment was conducted.

The HGTC needs survey indicates there are over 30 potential OTA employers of varying sizes. The results reported a projected need of 115 full-time positions over the next three years (2007-2009). The results from the survey show 34 new and replacement full-time positions projected for 2007. For the year 2008 there are about 38 new and replacement full-time positions anticipated, while for the year 2009 the numbers are projected at 43 new and replacement positions. Additionally, over 60 part-time positions will exist in the local area. The estimated beginning salary from the needs survey is \$31,877.

7. Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity:+

HGTC's needs survey echoes national and state-wide trends in the OTA field which depicts a significant need for the program within our area. Approximately 96% of respondents in the HGTC service area indicated that they expect to employ additional OTAs within the next three years. Specifically, respondents in the college's service area anticipate more than 85 new full-time and 73 new part-time positions will become available over the next three years with an average entry-level salary of about \$31,877 for full-time and \$17.60 per hour for part-time. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates a median annual salary in South Carolina of \$40,300 which is slightly above the national median which further indicates the demand for qualified workers.

The proposed OTA program is expected to generate an enrollment of 24 full-time students the first year. Program enrollments for the second and third years will include 42 full-time students (24 freshman and 18 sophomores) each year. These figures are based on an attrition rate of 25%.

8. Assessment of Extent to Which Program Duplicates Existing Programs in the State:

Two technical colleges in the state, Trident (TTC) and Greenville Technical College (GTC), currently offer an Associate Degree in Health Science with a major in OTA. Both of the programs encourage graduates to pursue the OTA professional credential by passing the required licensure exam. Currently, HGTC has linkages through one-plus-one programs with both TTC and GTC. However, the need of HGTC's service area health care providers is not being fully met through the existing partnerships.

9. Relationship of Proposed Program to Existing Programs at the Proposing Institution:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College offers associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs in several health care related fields including but not limited to: Nursing (RN and PN), Dental Hygiene, Pharmacy Technology, Radiologic Technology, and Emergency Medical Technology. Additionally, the college was recently approved to offer a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) degree program and is pursuing program accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) in order to begin the program in Fall 2008. The proposed OTA degree is a complementary program to the PTA associate degree as these programs and graduates will serve similar markets and health care providers. The similarities in resources will make both programs more cost effective for the college. Both programs will be housed at the Grand Strand Campus of HGTC in the Robert E. Speir, Jr. Healthcare Education Center that is nearing completion.

The wide array of health care programs offered at HGTC will complement the proposed program. Additionally, the large pool of expertise at the college with varying health care

education accreditation agencies and licensure requirements will benefit the program in the development and implementation stages. All of the general education courses required for the proposed program currently exist within the college's course offerings. This will give the college the benefit of economies of scale in offering those courses that are applicable to other related health care professional programs.

10. Relationship of the Proposed Program to Other Institutions Via Inter-Institutional Cooperation:

This proposal is a two-year associate degree program designed primarily as a terminal degree. The goal of the proposed program is to provide the graduate with the needed attributes to successfully complete the licensure requirements of OTA. As noted earlier, HGTC currently has linkages through one-plus-one OTA programs with TTC and GTC. However, very few students are able to allocate the time and fiscal resources required to successfully participate in and complete the OTA program outside the local area. Presently, the needs of the college's service area are not fully being met through the existing program linkages as evidenced by repeated requests by area health care providers for a local OTA program.

Although the proposed program is designed as a terminal degree, the college will seek articulation with Coastal Carolina University through the Interdisciplinary Studies Bachelor of Science degree.

11. Total Costs Associated With Implementing the Proposed Program (General Estimates Only):

ANNUAL ESTIMATED COSTS

	1ST Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
Equipment	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$10,000
Operation Budget	\$24,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Library Supplies	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Personnel	\$81,920	\$84,378	\$86,910
Total Projected Costs	\$150,920	\$136,378	\$118,910

President

Date