

New Program Proposal
Associate in Health Sciences in Emergency Medical Technology
Trident Technical College, Charleston Campus

Summary

Trident Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences in Emergency Medical Technology, to be implemented in Fall 2005.

The proposal was approved by the Trident Technical College Area Commission on March 16, 2004, and by the Technical College System Board on May 25, 2004. It was submitted for Commission review on April 23, 2004. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on July 15, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates who help to fill the Charleston area's need for Emergency Medical Technicians. According to the proposal, the presence of a large and growing elderly (over 65) population in the area and a related demand for emergency services has a strong impact on the market for EMTs in the area. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for EMT-Paramedics will increase 21 to 35% through 2010. An employer needs survey of the college's three-county service area in November of 2003 predicted that 367 EMT-Paramedic positions (149 part-time, 218 full-time) will be available for the years 2005-2007 due to new positions and turnover. The potential 20 graduates per year from the program will help to meet this need.

The admission criteria for the program will parallel criteria for current allied health associate degree programs at the college. A clean criminal background check and proof of 15 hours of observation of an EMT-Paramedic employed by an emergency services agency are also required. The curriculum will consist of 69 credit hours in 20 courses. Thirteen of the courses, all EMS courses, will be new to Trident Technical College's catalog. The additional seven courses will be in the areas of biology, math, computers, psychology, and a single elective in public speaking/fine arts/humanities. The new courses to be added are approved courses under the Technical College System Statewide Catalog of Approved Courses.

Three technical colleges in the state currently offer EMT programs. Greenville Technical College has an established program and new programs have been approved at Horry-Georgetown and Florence Darlington Technical Colleges. The closest of these is

over ninety miles away from Trident Tech. Like the recently approved EMT programs, the proposed program meets the new U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines for emergency medical technicians.

The proposal indicates that four headcount faculty will be hired for this program, including one Instructor/Program Director and three adjunct faculty, for a total of two (2) FTE positions. No new administrative or staff positions will be created.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 24 headcount (34.2 FTE) in FY 2005-06 and increase to 44 headcount (49.5 FTE) in FY 2007-08. Estimates are based on the number of applicants for the seven existing allied health programs. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

The proposal indicates that the accreditation process will be initiated within two years of the program's implementation. Academic programs in Emergency Medical Technology are subject to accreditation through the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP). Graduates of the program must be certified by the South Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services in the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in order to practice. Graduates of the EMS program will be eligible to sit for the EMT-Paramedic registry exam through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

The proposal states that general education courses will be taught in existing classrooms or using existing distance education formats at Trident Technical College. EMS courses will be conducted using classroom space donated by the Lowcountry Regional EMS Council in a state-of-the-art training facility in North Charleston. The Lowcountry Regional EMS Council will also provide office space for the EMS program coordinator which includes office equipment, phone, and internet access.

Trident Technical College currently has a collection of over 132,000 items in its Learning Resources Center. Of these, over 28,000 are electronic volumes, 900 are audio-visual titles, and 35 are databases. The Center staff has examined the holdings for relevance to the proposed program and has found that 2400 of the titles are relevant. A total of \$10,000 will be spent in each of the program's first two years, and \$2,000 in the third, to add necessary resources. In addition to Center holdings, there is a center webpage with extensive links to related material.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$98,350 in year one and include faculty salaries/fringe (\$78,850), library resources (\$10,000), and supplies and materials (\$8,500). Estimated costs increase to \$114,050 by year three and include faculty salaries/fringe benefits (\$102,050), library resources (\$2,000), supplies and

materials (\$5,000), and accreditation costs (\$5,000). The total estimated new cost is \$318,350 for the program’s first three years. All major equipment for the program is being provided by the Lowcountry Regional EMS Council.

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
Year 1	\$157,594		\$157,594	\$0	\$84,412	\$84,412
Year 2	\$228,250		\$228,250	41,399	\$122,342	\$163,741
Year 3	\$228,250		\$228,250	59,875	\$122,342	\$182,217

These data demonstrate that if Trident Technical College can meet the projected student enrollments 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. However, some in-kind contributions from the Low-Country Regional EMS Council will help defray costs.

In summary, Trident Technical College proposes to offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology that will prepare graduates for certification as EMT-Paramedics. These graduates will meet the needs of the college’s service area for trained EMT-Paramedics to at least partially fill the projected need for workers in this field.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Trident Technical College’s proposed program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology for implementation in Fall 2005, provided that no “unique cost” or other special State funding be requested or required.