

New Program Proposal
Associate in Health Sciences, Major in Emergency Medical Technology
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

Summary

Orangeburg-Calhoun 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 in January 2006.

The proposal was submitted for Commission review on May 16, 2005. It was approved by the State Technical College System board on May 24, 2005. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on July 14, 2005.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates either for entry-level into the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) field or to advance the careers of those already in the field who have thus far only received non-credit training and/or non-degree educational preparation. The need for the program is based on demand by public and private employers in the Orangeburg area and on the increased level of education and training required for entrance or career progression in the field. The Lowcountry EMS Council has provided written support for the program proposal and has pledged financial contributions to the program.

DHEC has recently adopted new US Department of Transportation (USDOT) national standards for EMT which require that a person in the field must take advanced training or an associate degree program for career maintenance and advancement. The fact that the advanced training option does not allow for a student to access federal financial aid makes the associate degree option much more appealing to many students. Based on a needs analysis survey conducted by the institution in Fall 2004, there are estimated to be 66 full-time (new and replacement) positions in the EMT field in the College's service area for the first three-year period of the program.

The curriculum consists of 69 credit hours. Of these, 18 credits are in general education (of which three are electives), eight are in anatomy and physiology, and 43 are in the major field itself. The curriculum has been designed to meet the USDOT standards

recently adopted by the South Carolina DHEC. A total of 13 new courses will be required for the proposed program.

The proposed curriculum is similar in content to that offered by the other five technical colleges which have been approved to offer a program in this field. These institutions are Greenville Technical College, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Technical College of the Lowcountry, Florence-Darlington Technical College and Trident Technical College, each of which has a different geographical clientele from the proposed program in the Orangeburg-Calhoun counties' region. The closest of these other institutional programs geographically is the program at Trident Technical College, sixty miles from Orangeburg. Thus, although these programs represent duplications of the same service, the programs themselves are not "unnecessarily" duplicative.

The proposal from Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College indicates that one new full-time faculty member (1 FTE) and one new part-time faculty member (.2 FTE) will be hired in the first year of the program. This faculty complement is anticipated to remain the same throughout the first three years of the program's implementation. Faculty members will meet the regional and professional accreditation standards, respectively, for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and Committee on Accreditation of Emergency Medical Services Programs (CoAEMSP). Each faculty member who teaches in the program will have earned at least an associate degree in the field of EMT.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 15 headcount (23 FTE) in FY 2006-07, the first full academic year of this program, and increase to 30 headcount (34.5 FTE) in FY 2007-2008 and thereafter. Estimates of enrollment in the first year are based on the reports for local demand and the interest upon the part of students. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

The College will initiate the process leading to national professional accreditation for the program within a year after the program's approval by the Commission. The granting of full professional accreditation for the program through the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) is anticipated by 2008.

There are no additional physical plant requirements for the proposed program. Equipment needs are anticipated to be provided by the Lowcountry EMS Council and other groups' donations for the first three years of implementation of the program. In the event that such donations might not occur, the institution has set aside \$5000 for purchases of equipment. The library has substantial numbers of journals and volumes necessary for the general education component of the program. The library will require

more resources for the EMT component of the program. There is an institutional commitment to meet these and all other costs of the program. New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$74,000 in the first full year of the program's operations. These costs include faculty salaries/fringe benefits, equipment, supplies/materials, and library resources. Estimated costs are anticipated to be \$60,500 in the second year and \$61,500 in the third year. Total new costs for the first three years of the program by category are estimated at \$196,000.

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 | \$402,960 | 0 | \$402,960 | 0 | \$61,896 | 61,896 |
| 2005-06 | \$604,440 | 0 | \$604,440 | \$105,861 | \$92,843 | \$198,704 |
| 2006-07 | \$604,440 | 0 | \$604,440 | \$158,792 | \$92,843 | \$251,635 |

These data demonstrate that if Orangeburg-Calhoun 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 affirms that it has the resources to operate the program effectively.

In summary, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College will offer an Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology that will prepare students in the service area as persons certified in Emergency Medical Technology under the newly-accepted national USDOT standards adopted by DHEC. As measured by employer demand and student interest, the program is needed in the area. No nearby institution will have the same program. The institution has indicated its ability and willingness to fund the program.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College for

implementation in January 2006, provided that no “unique cost” or other special State funding be requested or required.