

October 5, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Consideration of Request for Initial License**  
**Beta Tech, Columbia, SC**  
**A.O.S., Criminal Justice**

**Summary**

Beta Tech <[www.betatech.edu](http://www.betatech.edu)> requests approval of an initial license to offer at its Columbia campus a program leading to the Associate of Occupational Science degree in Criminal Justice to be implemented in January 2007.

Beta Tech is a private, for-profit institution whose parent company is Employment Services, Inc.; Gerald Yagen is the sole stockholder. The parent company also owns affiliates Tidewater Tech, Protemps Temporary Services, Polytechnic Institute of America, and Aviation Institute of Maintenance. Beta Tech has two campuses in Richmond, Virginia, and one each in North Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina. Beta Tech is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and College of Technology (ACCSC). ACCSC has accredited the North Charleston campus since 1998; the Columbia campus was included as a branch in 2002.

CHE licenses Beta Tech to offer programs leading to certificates in North Charleston (since 1995) and Columbia (since 2001). The North Charleston campus offers programs leading to certificates of completion for Computer Administrative Specialist, Network Technician, Legal Assistant, and Medical Assistant. The Columbia location offers programs leading to certificates of completion for Computer

Administrative Specialist, Computer Support Specialist, Network Technician, and Medical Assistant.

Beta Tech offers its courses in a nontraditional quarter term system. Each quarter is comprised of three modules of five weeks. Full-time students take seven to eight credit hours per module which equates to 22-24 credit hours per quarter. The Associate of Occupational Science degree in Criminal Justice consists of four quarters and is a total of 93 quarter credit hours. The total length of the program is 60 weeks for full-time students. Full-time students attend class daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; part-time students attend from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The Associate of Occupational Science degree in Criminal Justice at Beta Tech is intended to prepare (1) students for careers in criminal justice in public and private sectors and (2) current criminal justice professionals for advancement. The program is offered by Tidewater Tech at its Virginia Beach campus and on-line. ACCSCT has reviewed and approved the curriculum offered at these campuses.

For admission to the Associate of Occupational Science degree in Criminal Justice, candidates must provide evidence of a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate and be above the age of compulsory high school attendance. Candidates for the program must also sign a Student Acknowledgement Form indicating their understanding that criminal background checks, psychological exams, and other requirements may be necessary for employment in the field.

Faculty members teaching core criminal justice courses must hold an associate's or bachelor's degree (bachelor's preferred) or have formal training within the criminal justice field, plus a minimum of three years of experience in the field. Faculty members teaching general education courses must have a master's degree with 18 hours in the teaching discipline or hold a master's degree with a major in the teaching discipline. Exceptions to academic preparation may be made with the consent of the Commission.

Tuition is \$220 per credit hour. Books are estimated to be an additional \$500 per quarter. The total cost for the program, including tuition, books, and fees, is approximately \$22,585.

Beta Tech recently moved its Columbia location into a newly renovated facility at 7500 Two Notch Road. The campus includes 22,400 square feet; an additional 14,000 square feet are available for expansion. The space includes offices, nine computer labs, nine lecture classrooms, a student lounge, library, and bookstore. Each classroom comfortably seats up to 20 students.

Beta Tech anticipates 10 new student starts per module for a total of 100 new students for the first year the program is offered.

Midlands Technical College in Columbia offers a program leading to the Associate in Public Service degree with a major in Criminal Justice Technology and a 21-credit-hour certificate program in Criminal Justice.

The following table shows the curriculum content for the Associate of Occupational Science degree in Criminal Justice:

<b>Associate of Occupational Science in Criminal Justice Curriculum</b>		
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Quarter Credit Hours</b>
<b>General Education Courses</b>		
GE 106	Critical Reading	2.0
GE 126	Composition I	2.0
GE 125	English Grammar	2.0
GE 205	Composition II	2.0
GE 160	Mathematics I	2.0
GE 245	Mathematics II	2.0
GE 225	Human Relations	2.0
<b>Computer Courses</b>		
CS 110	Electronic Keyboarding I	1.0
CS 140	Introduction to the Internet	2.0
CS 153	Word Processing	4.5
CS 159	Software Applications	1.5
CS 130	Operating Systems	2.0
<b>Core Criminal Justice Courses</b>		
CJ 110	Introduction to Criminal Justice	4.0
CJ 120	Introduction to Corrections	4.0
CJ 130	Juvenile Delinquency	4.0
CJ 140	Private Security Partners in Crime Prevention	2.0
CJ 150	Police Operations, Procedures, and Administration	6.0
CJ 160	Criminology	4.0
CJ 170	Criminal Psychology	4.0
CJ 200	Constitutional Law	4.0
CJ 210	Criminal Evidence and Investigation	4.0
CJ 220	Criminal Law and Procedures	6.0
CJ 230	Community Policing	4.0
CJ 240	Courts and the Criminal Justice System	4.0
CJ 250	National and International Terrorism and Homeland Security	6.0
CJ 260	Gang Violence and Drugs	4.0
CJ 270	Victimization	4.0
CJ 280	White Collar and Organized Crime	4.0
	<b>Total Program Quarter Credit Hours</b>	<b>93</b>

## **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends favorably to the Commission an initial licensure for five years to Beta Tech to offer at its Columbia site a program leading to the Associate of Occupational Science degree in Criminal Justice to be implemented in January 2007.