

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 Amendment of License
Miller-Motte Technical College, Clarksville, TN, at Charleston
A.A.S., Health Information Technology; A.A.S., Respiratory Therapy**

Summary

Miller-Motte Technical College (MMTC) <http://www.miller-motte.edu/student/> requests approval of an amendment to its license to offer in Charleston programs leading to the A.A.S. degree in Health Information Management to be implemented in January 2007 and Respiratory Therapy to be implemented in July 2007.

The Charleston location of MMTC operates as a branch of the Clarksville, Tennessee campus. It is a private, for-profit entity owned by Delta Educational Systems, Inc., a Virginia corporation, which is owned by Gryphon Colleges Corporation, a private equity firm based in San Francisco, California. The Clarksville campus offers the A.A.S. under authority granted by the State of Tennessee through the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) has accredited MMTC since 1989.

The Commission licenses MMTC to offer at the Charleston location programs leading to the A.A.S. degree in Accounting, Criminal Justice, Information Processing, Management, Massage Therapy, Medical Assisting, Paralegal Studies, and Surgical

Technology; the diploma in Massage Therapy; and the certificate in Sterile Processing. The institution has designed its programs to provide students with vocational career training and not for transfer to a four-year institution.

To qualify for admission to MMTC, applicants must present evidence of high school graduation from an accredited high school or a G.E.D. certificate, be beyond the age of compulsory high school attendance, be interviewed by a MMTC admission representative, and receive a minimum score of 15 on the Wonderlic assessment test. The assessment test may be waived for applicants who have taken the SAT or earned at least 15 hours of college credit. Applicants to the Health Information Technology and Respiratory Therapy programs will be required to consent to a criminal background check.

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. Faculty members teaching core courses in A.A.S. programs must hold a bachelor's degree or appropriate academic preparation coupled with work experience. A full-time program director will be hired for each program. For the Health Information Technology program, the program director must hold at least a bachelor's degree and be certified as a Registered Health Information Technician or Registered Health Information Administrator by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). For the Respiratory Therapy program, the program director must hold a bachelor's degree and be a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) with at least four years of experience as a RRT. A director of clinical education will be hired for the Respiratory Therapy program; he or she must possess a bachelor's degree and have at least four years experience as a RRT. Lastly, MMTC will also appoint one licensed physician with respiratory care experience to serve as a voluntary medical director.

MMTC leases approximately 35,000 square feet of commercial space in the Rivers Park Business Center on Rivers Avenue in North Charleston. The existing facility will provide adequate space for the new programs for at least the first three years. An additional 11,000 square feet are available for new classroom and laboratory space. Existing space will be modified to include a functioning lab for the Respiratory Therapy program and a computing lab for the Health Information Technology program.

Students access adequate learning resources (library resources, computer labs, and audio-visual support) at the Charleston MMTC branch site library. The library includes student seating, computer workstations, non-circulating reference books, circulating books and videos, print editions of magazines, journals, and newspapers, and an automated catalog/circulation system. Through the MMTC Virtual Library, students have access to web-based periodicals, as well as electronic textbooks via Jones e-global® and Gale Infotrac®. Students also have access to several area college and university libraries, including Charleston Southern University and Trident Technical College.

The basic tuition rate is \$189 per credit hour. A \$10 per credit hour program fee will be charged based on the number of credits in which a student is enrolled at the end of the drop/add period. Program fees reflect the cost of specialized materials and equipment required for a program.

Health Information Technology

The objective of the Health Information Technology program is to provide students with a background in planning, collecting, aggregating, analyzing, and disseminating individual patient and aggregate clinical or hospital data. Graduates are eligible to sit for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) certification exam and may seek entry-level employment in physician's offices, clinics, laboratories, hospitals, group practices, specialty practices, health insurance offices, and nursing homes. MMTC will seek voluntary program accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) of AHIMA.

Officials at MMTC project enrolling 40 students into the Health Information Technology program for the first year.

Currently there are only three CAHIIM accredited programs in Health Information Technology in South Carolina, none of which are located in the Charleston area.

Respiratory Therapy

The objective of the Respiratory Therapy program is to provide students with a background in managing, controlling, and treating the problems associated with cardiopulmonary diseases and other cardiopulmonary disorders and to receive training in respiratory care procedures. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care certification and registry exams and may seek entry-level employment in physician's offices, clinics, laboratories, hospitals, group practices, specialty practices, health insurance offices, and nursing homes. MMTC will seek voluntary program accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) on the recommendation of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

Officials at MMTC project enrolling 40 students into the Respiratory Therapy program for the first year.

Trident Technical College in Charleston (approximately 14 miles from MMTC) offers a program leading to the Associate in Health Science degree with a major in Respiratory Care. The program consists of 83-84 semester credit hours and prepares students for employment as advanced-level respiratory care practitioners.

The following table shows the curriculum content for the Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Technology and the Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy:

Courses	A.A.S. Health Information Technology	A.A.S. Respiratory Therapy
General Education Courses		
EN 101 English Composition I	4	4
EN 102 English Composition II	4	4
MH 101 College Mathematics	4	4
EN 210 Oral Communications	4	4
General Studies Courses (Choose one 4-credit elective from each area)		
GS 145 Appreciation for the Arts GS 250 Ethics GS 240 Introduction to Literature	4	4
GS 175 Physical Science Survey GS 280 Microbiology	4	4
GS 110 General Psychology GS 210 Principles of Sociology	4	4
Major and Related Requirements		
MA 105 Medical Law and Ethics	2	2
MA 110 Medical Terminology	4	4
MA 111 Anatomy and Physiology I	4	4
MA 112 Anatomy and Physiology II	4	4
IT 101 Introduction to Computers	4	4
OT 101 Document Processing I	4	4
GS 101 Career Development	4	4
GS 201 Career Management	2	2
MA 113 Pathology	4	
MA 115 Medical Coding	4	
MA 215 Medical Insurance	4	
MA 220 Medical Computer Applications	2	
MA 222 Medical Office Systems	4	
HT 100 Health Information Technology Orientation	2	
HT 160 Healthcare Regulation	4	
HT 200 Health Information Systems	4	
HT 210 Registries and Statistics	4	
HT 220 Health Information and Technology Review	2	
HT 250 Externship and Seminar	6	
RT 100 Respiratory Therapy Orientation		2
RT 110 Pulmonary Diseases		4
RT 120 Respiratory Pharmacology		4
RT 200 Cardiopulmonary Physiology		4
RT 210 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics		4
RT 215 Respiratory Therapeutics		4
RT 220 Clinical Care Techniques		4
RT 225 Neonatal/Pediatric Care		4
RT 230 Hemodialysis Monitoring		2
RT 235 Respiratory Therapy Review		2
RT 250 Externship and Seminar		6
Total Program Quarter Credit Hours	96	96

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve an amendment to the license of Miller-Motte Technical College to offer at its Charleston location the programs leading to the A.A.S. degree in Health Information Technology to be implemented in January 2007 and the A.A.S. degree in Respiratory Therapy to be implemented in July 2007.