Program Planning Summary
State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education

1. **College**:   Florence-Darlington Technical College

2. **Award**:   Associate in Computer Technology

3. **Major**:   Telecommunications Systems Management

4. **Designation:** (Check one)

   a. __x____   New Program Proposal

        _66_ Number of credit hours

   b. _____   Program Modification

        ____ Number of credit hours

5. **Proposed Date of Implementation**:   Spring 2007

6. **Justification of Need**:

   Florence-Darlington Technical College's (FDTC) mission is to respond to the educational, economic, and cultural needs of a diverse population by providing comprehensive technical education through technical, general, and continuing education programs. In response to this mission, FDTC proposes to develop and implement an Associate Degree in Computer Technology with a major in Telecommunications Systems Management to assist businesses and industry in meeting their needs for computer telecommunications systems and networking technicians in Florence, Darlington, and Marion counties. This program is designed to prepare graduates to become successful telecommunications systems or networking technicians.

   The need for telecommunications systems technicians has increased in FDTC's service area with increases in economic growth particularly in Florence and Darlington counties. As telecommunications technology has become both more complex and more integrated into daily business processes for an ever-increasing variety of businesses, a shortage of trained telecommunications systems technicians has developed. To assess the demand for these graduates and the need for this new program, FDTC conducted a Develop A Curriculum (DACUM) review with the Computer Technology Advisory Committee. During the DACUM process, it became very obvious that the emphasis in computer technology has shifted from the need for computer programming technicians to telecommunications systems technicians.

   Several members of FDTC's Computer Technology Advisory Committee informed the College's faculty and staff that they are limited in their response to internal and external customers due to the lack of adequate staffing of qualified telecommunications systems technicians.

7. **Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity**:

   FDTC conducted a "needs survey" of telecommunications businesses and of other businesses that are dependent on telecommunications. Analysis of the needs survey indicates the presence of approximately thirty-six potential employers of telecommunications systems technicians in FDTC's service area. The results from the survey showed that these thirty-six employers anticipate about 102 new and replacement telecommunications systems technician positions will be available in 2007. In 2008 the estimate is 144 positions, and in 2009 the estimate is 178 positions. This analysis depicts a significant need for graduates of the proposed program in the College's service area. The majority of the organizations surveyed in FDTC's service area indicated that they expect to employ additional telecommunications systems technicians within the next three years. Specifically, respondents in the College's service area anticipated more than 266 full-time and 152 part-time positions will become available over the next three years with an average entry level salary of approximately $36,300 for full-time and $15.88 per hour for part-time technicians. These numbers are consistent with the U.S. Department of Labor's 2004 data reporting of the annual median wage for telecommunications systems (networking) technicians of $35,820.

   The proposed Associate Degree in Computer Technology with a major in Telecommunications Systems Management is expected to generate an enrollment of 50 full-time students the first year. Student enrollment is expected to increase substantially over the next three years.

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

   Two technical colleges in the South Carolina Technical College System, Midlands Technical College (MTC) and Trident Technical College (TTC), currently offer an Associate Degree in Computer Technology with a major in Telecommunications Systems Management. Currently, the demand for these highly skilled technicians is not being met in FDTC's service area. The three counties served by FDTC are well beyond any reasonable commuting distance from the sister institutions currently offering the proposed degree program; therefore, there will be no duplication of services among the three colleges.

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

   FDTC currently offers the Associate Degree in Computer Technology with a major in Computer Programming, a Certificate in Cisco Wide Area Networking and a Certificate in Introductory Web Page Design. The proposed new program is designed to replace the current Associate Degree in Computer Technology with a major in Computer Programming. Naturally, students currently enrolled in the computer programming major will have the opportunity to complete their

program of study. Some of the programming courses will be retained in the proposed program. In addition, several courses in the Cisco Wide Area Networking certificate and the Introductory Web Page Design certificate curricula will complement the proposed program. The College will be able to benefit from the economies of scale in offering those courses that are applicable to multiple computer technology programs. All of the general education courses required for the proposed program currently exist within the College's course offerings.

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

The proposed program is a two-year associate degree designed primarily as a terminal degree. The goal of the proposed program is to provide the graduate with the competencies required to successfully perform as a telecommunications systems (networking) technician within the College's service area. Currently, Florence-Darlington Technical College has a very positive and long standing transfer relationship with Francis Marion University (FMU). Many of FDTC graduates successfully transfer to FMU. FDTC will work toward expanding transfer agreements with FMU with the intent of increasing the number of FDTC computer technology courses being accepted in transfer by FMU.

The College will seek accreditation of the proposed program though the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

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

Costs for the proposed program are calculated on the basis of salaries, equipment, and other operating budget expenses. The 1st year estimated costs for salaries are approximately $280,677and include a full-time program director, three full-time faculty members, and administrative support. Additional equipment, software, and supplies for Voice Over Internet Protocol will need to be purchased at approximately $27,500. Years 2 and 3 salaries were estimated at an annual increase of 4%.

ANNUAL EXTIMATED COSTS

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
Faculty Salaries	$273,677	$284,624	$296,009
Clerical/Support Personnel	7,000	7,280	7,571
Supplies/Materials	2,500	2,500	2,500
Equipment	24,000	12,000	120,000
Other (replacement parts)	1,000	2,000	2,000
TOTALS	$308,177	$308,404	$428,080

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(Signature of College President)   (Date)