

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval of four new associate degree programs to be offered at four community colleges.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves the following programs at the colleges indicated:

College of Lake County

- Associate of Applied Science in Game Development

Illinois Central College

- Associate of Applied Science in Personal/Fitness Trainer

Lewis and Clark Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Biological Laboratory Technician

Morton College

- Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By statute, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is responsible for approving new associate degree programs proposed by public community colleges. The Board's approval criteria, defined in administrative rules, address relevance to college mission, academic control, faculty and staff, support services, financial resources, student demand, employer demand, curriculum, and congruence with IBHE policies and priorities. Before a recommendation for approval of an associate degree program is submitted to the IBHE for approval, staffs of the IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) review the proposal. Once agreement is reached on a proposal having met the approval criteria, a recommendation for approval is presented to each board.

College of Lake County
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, Illinois 60030-1198
President: Dr. Girard "Jerry" Weber

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Game Development

Projected Enrollments: The College of Lake County has projected that enrollments in the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Game Development will vary from 39 to 59 students during the next three years. These numbers are based on fluctuating enrollments in the temporary program approved by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) in 2007.

Introduction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

The College of Lake County (the College) is seeking approval to offer a 61 semester credit hour Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Game Development. This program was granted temporary approval in March 2007 by ICCB and has been operating successfully for three years. The program prepares individuals for entry-level employment as game developers and programmers. Curriculum for the program consists of 21-22 semester credit hours of required general education coursework, 28 semester credit hours of required career and technical education courses, and up to 12 semester credit hours of related technical electives. The career and technical component of the curriculum includes instruction in introductory computer programming, programming concepts in JAVA or Visual Basic, game development and design strategies, 2-D and 3-D game development, programming in C++ and Advanced C++, math for game development, and a game development project. Assessment of student learning outcomes is achieved through tests and examinations in courses for the program as well as the evaluation of a comprehensive final project related to game development and design.

Strengths of the program include dual credit opportunities through local high schools, qualified faculty, and an increase in resources compared to the resources available during the first two years of operation. Also, the College has worked with DePaul University and Carthage College to smooth the transfer process of graduates of the program to the baccalaureate programs. Challenges the College plans to address to increase quality in the program include development of a new course in C++ Graphics for Games.

Labor Market Information

Labor market information for formalized training in the game development occupation is supportive of the need for this program in the College's district and statewide. The College has already exceeded its expected enrollments during the three year temporary approval period. Twenty-five students were enrolled in the first semester of Fall 2007, 59 students in the second semester, 39 students during the third semester in Fall 2008, and 68 students in the fourth semester in Spring 2009. Enrollment in the last fall and spring semesters totaled 35 and 87 students respectively. As of Spring 2010, five students have completed the program. This outcome has exceeded the College's original projection when the program was implemented three years ago. Degree completion in the program is relatively low because the majority of students are enrolled on a part-time basis, and it is common for students to interrupt their studies to work once they have acquired some occupational skills. Typically, part-time students take more than two years to complete their associate degrees. The College has begun addressing the retention problem to increase degree completion in this program.

Resources: Faculty, Staff, etc.

Facilities and equipment are in place to adequately support the program because the program has already been operating for three years. The College has reported that there are two existing faculty to support the program. Qualifications for faculty for the program include at least an associate's degree in an information technology field with a minimum of two years gaming design and development experience and at least one year of teaching experience. Since the program is three years old, it is fully supported by existing institutional funds, and there is no need for additional funds at this time.

Staff Conclusion. The College of Lake County and its proposed program meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23 Ill. Administrative Code 1-50.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation or licensure.

Illinois Central College
One College Drive
East Peoria, Illinois 61635-0001
President: Dr. John S. Erwin

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Personal/Fitness Trainer

Projected Enrollments: Illinois Central College has projected that enrollments in the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Personal/Fitness Trainer program will grow from five part-time students in the first year to 15 part-time students in each of the second and third years.

Introduction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Illinois Central College (the College) is seeking approval to offer a 64 credit hour Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Personal/Fitness Trainer program. The program is designed to prepare individuals for employment as personal trainers or fitness instructors in a variety of health and fitness settings. The curriculum was developed according to National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) guidelines for certification and will lead graduates to several optional industry credentialing exams available through NSCA, the American Council on Exercise (ACE), and the National Council on Strength and Fitness (NCSF). The curriculum includes 22 credit hours of required general education coursework, 29 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, and 13 credit hours of technical electives. The career and technical component of the curriculum includes instruction in human anatomy and physiology, principles of nutrition, foundations of health, introductory recreation, scientific basis of human movement, foundations of human movement, principles of training, fitness and wellness, exercise testing, prescription and design, physical education topics, and a required work-based learning experience in personal or fitness training. Assessment of student learning outcomes will be achieved through tests and examinations in courses for the program, an evaluation of the student's performance during the work-based learning component of the program, and the student's results in one or more of the certification examinations in the related industries.

Labor Market Information

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for a formalized training program in this field of study in the College's district and statewide. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), statewide demand for fitness trainers is expected to increase by 27.8 percent through 2016. This increase in employment is over twice that of the state average for all occupations. Locally, the demand for qualified fitness trainers is high.

Resources: Faculty, Staff, etc.

The College recently opened the new Cougar Plex Fitness Facility, which will not only provide training and fitness services to the program and the local community, but it will also serve as a training facility for students enrolled in this and other related programs. One full-time and eight part-time existing faculty members will be utilized the first year to implement the program. Two new part-time faculty members will be added during the first year as well. Faculty qualifications for the program include a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology or a related field, at least two years of occupational experience in the industry, and one year of teaching experience.

Budgets to implement this program will be approximately \$7,200 the first year, \$9,000 the second year, and \$10,200 the third year. These budgets are low because resources to support the program are shared with the new Cougar Plex Fitness Facility, and all existing full and part-time faculty members that will support this program are paid by other funds within the College.

Staff Conclusion. Illinois Central College and its proposed program meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23 Ill. Administrative Code 1-50.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation or licensure.

Lewis and Clark Community College
5800 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, Illinois 62035-2426
Interim President: Dr. Dale T. Chapman

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Biological Laboratory Technician

Projected Enrollments: Lewis and Clark Community College has projected that enrollments in the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Biological Laboratory Technician program will grow from ten full-time and five part-time students the first year to 20 full-time and 15 part-time students by the third year of operation.

Introduction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Lewis and Clark Community College (the College) is seeking approval to offer a 63 credit hour Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Biological Laboratory Technician program. The proposed program is designed to prepare individuals for entry-level employment as biological laboratory technicians working in pharmaceutical, chemical, agricultural, environmental laboratories, and other settings. Curriculum for the program emphasizes development of a common set of laboratory skills in biotechnology, which graduates will find applicable in biological fields of study. The curriculum consists of 31 credit hours of general education coursework and 32 credit hours of required career and technical education courses. The career and technical component of the program includes instruction in biology, cellular and molecular biology, microbiology, botany, zoology, organic and inorganic chemistry, and a required work-based learning experience in a biological laboratory. Assessment of student learning outcomes in the program will be met through a combination of tests and examinations in courses for the program and an evaluation of the student's performance during the work-based learning component of the curriculum.

Labor Market Information

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for a formalized associate degree program in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), employment of laboratory technicians is anticipated to grow by 16.8 percent statewide and by ten percent within the College's district through 2016. Furthermore, the College partners with local industry partners through the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) to meet regional education and training needs in biological laboratory technology fields. The NGRREC partnership has identified several large and growing companies in the district and surrounding region that have expressed a need for biological laboratory technicians. Prospective employers of graduates of the program include Monsanto, Pfizer, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, and the St. Louis School of Medicine at Washington University.

Resources: Faculty, Staff, etc.

Existing facilities, laboratories, and equipment are adequate to support the proposed program while some additional equipment purchases will be added during the second and third years of operation. Six existing full-time and one existing part-time faculty will implement this program. Of the existing full-time faculty members, three hold doctorates in molecular biology, entomology, and plant physiology. The remaining three have master's degrees in biology. All existing full-time faculty have a minimum of three years related occupational experience and five years of teaching experience.

Costs of implementing this program will be approximately \$1,000 the first year and \$34,000 the second and third years. The budgets are relatively small because no new faculty members are needed for this program. The existing faculty members for the program are partially paid by other funds within the College.

Staff Conclusion. Lewis and Clark Community College and its proposed program meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23 Ill. Administrative Code 1-50.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation or licensure.

Morton College
3801 South Central Avenue
Cicero, Illinois 60804-4398
President: Dr. Leslie Anne Navarro

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology

Projected Enrollments: Morton College anticipates enrollments in the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology program will grow from ten full-time and five part-time students the first year to 15 full-time and five part-time students by the third year of operation.

Introduction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Morton College (the College) is seeking approval to offer a 63 semester credit hour Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Fire Science Technology. The proposed program is designed to prepare individuals for employment as firefighters. Curriculum for the program consists of 24 credit hours of required general education coursework, 18 credit hours of required career and technical education courses, and 21 credit hours of related technical electives. This program was developed according to the standards of the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Division of Personnel Standards and Education, and the Department of Public Health. Also, students in the program will be prepared for the Firefighter I level certification. The College has partnered with the Cicero Fire Department for laboratory facilities and equipment to support the program. Assessment of student learning outcomes in the program will consist of a combination of tests and examinations in courses for the program, a final demonstration examination during the last semester of coursework, and the certification examination to determine the level of success of graduates in the examination.

Labor Market Information

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for the proposed degree program. Employment of firefighters and related occupations is projected to increase by 12 percent statewide through 2016 according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Locally, the College has been working with its district fire departments during the last year to identify personnel needs, develop the curriculum, and secure needed facilities and equipment for the program. Cicero Fire Department has agreed to provide facilities, laboratory space, and equipment the College does not already have to support the program.

Resources: Faculty, Staff, etc.

Two new part-time faculty members will be needed to implement this program. Qualifications for faculty for the program include at least a bachelor's degree in fire science, five years of occupational experience, and at least two years of teaching experience.

Costs to implement the program will be approximately \$33,000 the first year, \$38,000 the second year, and \$42,000 the third year, in addition to the facilities and equipment that will be provided by the Cicero Fire Department. In addition to the two new part-time faculty members that will be hired to support this program, some existing faculty members paid by other funds within the College will also support this program.

Staff Conclusion. Morton College and its proposed program meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23 Ill. Administrative Code 1-50.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation or licensure.

The staff recommends that the Illinois Board of Higher Education adopt the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to College of Lake County to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Game Development subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Illinois Central College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Personal/Fitness Trainer subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Lewis and Clark Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Biological Laboratory Technician subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Morton College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.