

APPROVED
JUNE 2, 2015

Item #IV-7
June 2, 2015

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

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

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

College of Lake County

- Associate in General Studies

Richland Community College

- Associate in Applied Science in American Sign Language Interpreting

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By statute, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) 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 review the proposal. Once agreement is reached on a proposal having met the approval criteria, a recommendation for approval is presented to each board.

Executive Summary

College of Lake County

- Associate in General Studies

College of Lake County requests approval to offer a 60 credit hour Associate in General Studies. The program is designed for students earning a two-year degree for career advancement and personal growth. It is designed to serve a multitude of student populations, including, but not limited to, incumbent workers whose employers are requiring a degree for advancement, displaced workers fulfilling additional educational/career goals while seeking a degree for improved employment opportunities, or veterans seeking to return to the workforce by earning an associate degree that allows awarding of credit for military experience. There are policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide instruction in the proposed program. The College has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources in place to support the proposed program.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment A.

Richland Community College

- Associate in Applied Science in American Sign Language Interpreting

Richland Community College requests approval to offer a 64 credit hour Associate in Applied Science in American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting. This program will prepare students for entry-level employment as American Sign Language Interpreters and will lead towards the required credentialing for employment in the State of Illinois. There are policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide

instruction in the proposed program. The College has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources in place to support the proposed program.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment B.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to College of Lake County to offer the Associate in General Studies 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 Richland Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in American Sign Language Interpreting 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.

College of Lake County
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, IL 60030
President: Dr. Jerry Weber

Proposed Program Title: Associate in General Studies

Projected Enrollments: College of Lake County anticipates enrollment of students of diverse ages and backgrounds. The program is designed for students earning a two-year degree for career advancement and personal growth. It is designed to serve a multitude of student populations, including but not limited to incumbent workers whose employers are requiring a degree for advancement, displaced workers fulfilling additional educational/career goals while seeking a degree for improved employment opportunities, or veterans seeking to return to the workforce by earning an associate degree that allows awarding of credit for military experience.

Introduction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

College of Lake County (CLC) is seeking approval to offer a 60 credit hour Associate in General Studies (AGS) degree. The AGS is designed for students who want to complete an individualized associate degree that provides educational options beyond those available in other degree programs. To ensure that certain standards are met, the College will require students to establish a formal degree plan with an academic counselor and participate in the College assessment process for appropriate course placement in English and math. The 60 credits in the degree are comprised of a minimum of 21 credits in general education and 39 credits in electives.

Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) rules for AGS programs specify that proposals meet three degree intentions. The first is that the proposal must show that it is a liberal studies program. To fulfill this intent, the College will require that students within the program will complete at least 21 credit hours of coursework in humanities, social sciences, mathematics, sciences, and communication.

The second intent is to address needs of students that are not met by other programs. Through the AGS degree, College of Lake County will provide a broad array of courses to allow students considerable freedom in designing and pursuing a course of study that meets their individualized learning goals. Students will collaborate with an advisor or counselor to develop a master academic plan of study. Changes to this plan must be agreed upon by the student and the advisor/counselor.

The third intent is to provide a capstone program for graduates of occupational certificate programs. The AGS will serve as a capstone for individuals currently working in settings where a degree is needed for career advancement and where tuition reimbursement is available for a degree, but not available for certificate programs. Further, because some certificates do not naturally lead to an associate degree, the AGS will allow students to reach this threshold, meeting a key need with employers that are looking to hire employees with a two-year degree program.

Resources: Faculty, Staff, etc.

The proposed program will utilize existing faculty and staff resources. All facilities and resources are in place to adequately support the proposed degree.

Staff Conclusion. College of Lake County and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

Richland Community College
One College Park
Decatur, IL 62521
President: Dr. Gayle Saunders

Proposed Program Title: Associate in Applied Science in American Sign Language Interpreting

Projected Enrollments: The College anticipates enrollment of five full-time and 15 part-time students the first year, increasing to 13 full-time and 30 part-time students by the third year.

Introduction, Curriculum, and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Richland Community College is seeking approval to offer a 64 credit hour Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting. This program will prepare students for entry-level employment as American Sign Language Interpreters and will lead to the required credentialing for employment in the State of Illinois. The curriculum consists of 18 credit hours of required general education coursework, 37 credit hours of career and technical education coursework, and nine credit hours of related technical electives. The career and technical component includes four levels of American Sign Language lecture, practice and technique, and introductory interpreting; three additional levels of interpreting practice and technique, deaf culture, fingerspelling, and numbers; and a seminar and practical learning experience in ASL Interpreting. Graduates of the program will be prepared for the Test of English Proficiency (TEP) and the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters Performance test (BEI), both administered through the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission and both required for licensure to work as a sign language interpreter in Illinois. The curriculum was developed using guidelines of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and will prepare students for applying for optional national registry. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through an evaluation of skills during the practical learning experience by program faculty.

Labor Market Information

Labor market information provided by the college supports the interest in and the need for a series of training programs in this field of student in the College's district. Currently, there are no other related programs offered at community colleges in surrounding districts. The College was recently approved to offer two related certificate programs that will lead toward completion of the proposed degree. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), employment outlook for interpreters and translators is very favorable. Employment is expected to increase by 37.6 percent statewide through 2022, over five times the average increase for all occupations in the State.

Resources: Faculty, Staff, etc.

The program will require one new part-time faculty and one new full-time faculty for implementation. Qualified faculty must hold at least a Bachelor's degree in a related field and national RID certification, maintain current licensure in Illinois, and have five years work experience and two years teaching experience. All facilities and equipment are currently in place

to adequately support the program. Costs of implementing the program are estimated at \$7,100 the first year, \$11,100 the second year, and \$16,100 the third year. The program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Staff Conclusion. Richland Community College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.