

APPROVED
JUNE 4, 2019

Item #F-1
June 4, 2019

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval of five 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:

Elgin Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management
- Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology

Parkland College

- Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Applicator Technician

Rend Lake College

- Associate of Applied Science in Facility Management

Richland Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Agronomy

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, staff 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

Elgin Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management

Elgin Community College is seeking approval for a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management. This degree was designed to provide students with the necessary skills to perform supply chain management functions within a variety of settings. The degree program requires 18 credit hours of general education coursework and 33 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning and nine credit hours of related technical electives. Elgin Community College was previously approved to offer a related 18 credit hour Supply Chain and Logistics Specialist Certificate. Graduates will be prepared for entry-level employment in the field of supply chain and logistics management. 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.

- Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology

Elgin Community College is seeking approval for a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology. This degree was designed to provide students with the necessary skills to assist surgeons and other medical professionals within the environment of surgical services. The degree program requires 20 credit hours of general education coursework and 40 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning. Graduates will be prepared for entry-level employment, under the supervision of physicians and surgical nurses, to maintain, monitor, and enforce sterile field and adherence to aseptic techniques by pre-operative, surgical team, and post-operative personnel. Graduates are also eligible for certification by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) and upon successfully passing the NBSTSA exam, earn the title of Certified Surgical Technologist. 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.

Parkland College

- Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Applicator Technician

Parkland College is seeking approval for a 61-credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Applicator Technician. This degree was designed to provide students with hands-on experience and skills required to gain entry-level employment opportunities as an Advanced Applicator Technician. The degree program requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 46 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning. Parkland College was previously approved to offer a related 16-credit hour Ag Retail Operations Certificate. Graduates will be prepared for entry-level employment or advancement opportunities in the field of agriculture as custom applicator technicians. 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.

Rend Lake College

- Associate of Applied Science in Facility Management

Rend Lake College is seeking approval of a 65-credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Facility Management. This degree was designed to prepare students for management of an organization's physical plant and assets. The degree program requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 50 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning. The program will also prepare students for the ten-credit hour National Occupational Safety and Health Administration Construction Certification. Graduates will be prepared for entry-level employment or advancement in facility management positions. 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 C.

Richland Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Agronomy

Richland Community College is seeking approval of a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Agronomy. This degree was designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue a career in the crop science/agronomy sector. The degree program requires 16 credit hours of general education coursework and 44 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning. Graduates will be prepared for entry-level employment in the field of agriculture production with an understanding of all aspects of the industry including crop production, precision agriculture, and business management. 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 D.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Elgin Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management and Associate of Applied Science in Surgical 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.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Parkland College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Applicator 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 Rend Lake College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Facility Management 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 of Applied Science in Agronomy 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.

Elgin Community College
1700 Spartan Drive
Elgin, IL 60123-7193
President: Dr. David Sam

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Supply Chain Management (60 credit hours).

Program Purpose

The program will prepare individuals for entry-level employment or advancement opportunities in the field of supply chain and logistics management.

Catalog Description

The supply chain management program at Elgin Community College provides the student with the necessary skills to perform supply chain management functions within a variety of institutions. The certificate includes study of the inter-connected components of supply chain, transportation and logistics, and warehouse operations. In addition, students will be provided training on common business technology including Microsoft Excel. The two-year degree includes additional study in many aspects of business including accounting, economics, and business law as well as general education classes. Students will be prepared for entry level work in the various aspects of supply chain by completing an internship within the program.

Curricular Information

The degree program requires 18 credit hours of general education coursework and 33 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning, and nine credit hours of related technical electives. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in principles of operation management, transportation and logistics, warehouse management, customer service solutions, management and supervision, spreadsheet applications, and introductory business, financial, and managerial accounting. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of the student's performance during their work-based learning experience and a comprehensive final exam covering supply chain operations and management. The College was recently approved to offer a related 18 credit hour Supply Chain and Logistics Specialist Certificate. The proposed degree will provide an educational ladder opportunity for graduates of this certificate program.

Accrediting Information

Program accreditation is not required.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for a two-year degree program in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, overall growth in employment of related occupations is expected to increase between 4.3 and 9.8 percent statewide through 2026. Local growth in related occupations is expected to increase by about 2.3 percent and nationally an increase of 5.6 percent is expected over the next ten years.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Focus Logistics	St. Charles, IL
Horizon Complex Metal Stampings	East Dundee, IL
Kenmode	Algonquin, IL
SanFilippo (Fisher Nuts)	Elgin, IL
Lineage Logistics	Geneva, IL
Richardson Electronics	LaFox, IL
Motorola Solutions	Elgin, IL
Power Packaging	St. Charles, IL
VWR International	Batavia, IL
Illinois Tool Works/Shakerproof	Elgin, IL
NAPA Auto Parts	South Elgin, IL
Rana Meal Solutions	Bartlett, IL
Smalley Steel Ring Company	Lake Zurich, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Supply Chain Mgt AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	15	20	20
Part-Time Enrollments:	10	20	25
Completions:	0	10	10

Financial/Budgetary Information

Two to three new part-time faculty will be necessary to implement the program. Qualified faculty will hold a Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management or closely related field. At least two years of work experience in supply chain management and one year of teaching experience is preferred. All facilities are adequately in place to support the program. The program will otherwise be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	\$44,820	\$45,268	\$45,268
Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	0	0	0
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs*	0	0	0
Other (specify)	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	\$44,820	\$45,268	\$45,268

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>
New Faculty	0	2-3	0	0	0	0
Existing Faculty	0	0	0	2-3	0	2-3

Staff Conclusion

Elgin 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.

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology (60 credit hours).

Program Purpose

The program will prepare individuals for entry-level employment, under the supervision of physicians and surgical nurses, to maintain, monitor, and enforce sterile field and adherence to aseptic technique by pre-operative, surgical team, and post-operative personnel.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology program prepares individuals to assist surgeons and other medical professionals within the environment of surgical services. Surgical Technologists will prepare patients, rooms, and equipment for pending surgical procedures. Surgical Technologists possess expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic technique and combine the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, and implementation tools and technologies to facilitate a physician's performance of surgeries. Graduates of Elgin Community College's degree are eligible for certification by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). Students who pass the NBSTSA exam earn the title of Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

Curricular Information

The degree program requires 20 credit hours of general education coursework and 40 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework. The career and technical components include instruction in surgical technology basics, surgical technology theory and laboratory, advanced surgical technology theory and laboratory, specialty surgical procedures, surgical laboratory, allied health ethics, professional development, certification preparation, and basic and advanced levels of clinical experience. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of the student's performance during their clinical experience.

Justification for Credit hours required for the degree

The College currently offers an accredited Surgical Technology Certificate program. By August 2021, all existing programs will be required to award a minimum of an associate's degree for students to obtain national certification. The proposed degree curriculum exceeds content and competencies specified in the current edition of the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology as outlined by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and reflects all of the requisite topics and learning objectives necessary to meet accreditation requirements.

Accrediting Information

The proposed degree program meets new accreditation requirements of CAAHEP. The curriculum aligns with standards outlined by the NBSTSA for credentialing and will prepare graduates for the CST credential through the Association of Surgical Technologists.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

By August 2021, all existing programs will be required to award a minimum of an associate’s degree for students to obtain national certification. College faculty and members of the program advisory committee support the revision of the existing certificate program into a degree curriculum in order to meet accreditation standards and local labor force needs. Local employers indicate a need for not only the training of new surgical technologists, but also for a program that will provide existing professionals holding certificate-level education credentials an avenue for meeting new credential requirements. Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for a two-year degree program in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, employment for surgical technologists is expected increase by nearly one percent statewide through 2026.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital	Barrington, IL
Advocate Sherman Hospital	Elgin, IL
Northwestern Huntley Hospital	Huntely, IL
Northwestern McHenry Hospital	McHenry, IL
Northwest Community Hospital	Arlington Heights, IL
Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital	Geneva, IL
Presence St. Joseph’s Hospital	Elgin, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Surgical Tech AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	20	24	24
Part-Time Enrollments:	-	-	-
Completions:	18	21	22

Financial/Budgetary Information

Two existing full-time and four existing part-time faculty will be required to implement the revised program. Existing full- and part-time faculty will be retained and meet the requirements for accreditation. Existing faculty have at least an Associate in Surgical Technology or closely related field, hold current CST status, have between 8-25 years of operating room experience, and 4-15 years of didactic/clinical instruction experience. The program director possesses all the requirements as well as a Master’s in Healthcare Education and additional certification as a Surgical First Assistant. The program will use all existing facilities and equipment to support the program. The program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	\$9,031	\$9,031	\$9,031

Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	0	0	0
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs*	0	0	0
Other (Instruct Supplies)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL NEW COSTS	\$10,531	\$10,531	\$10,531

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>
New Faculty	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing Faculty	2	4	2	4	2	4

Staff Conclusion

Elgin 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.

Parkland College
2400 West Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821-1899
President: Dr. Thomas Ramage

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Applicator Technician (61 credit hours).

Program Purpose

The program will prepare individuals for entry-level employment or advancement opportunities in the field of agriculture as custom applicator technicians.

Catalog Description

This program prepares students for careers as Advanced Applicator Technicians. Students will demonstrate proficiency in basic agronomic skills, operating applicator equipment, applying applicator procedures in compliance with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency regulations, maintenance and repair of equipment, and use of precision agriculture technologies.

Curricular Information

The degree program requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 46 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework, which includes work-based learning. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in introductory crop sciences, agriculture computer applications, agriculture equipment safety, introductory agriculture retail operations, agriculture business management, agriculture salesmanship, introductory soil science, plant pest identification and control, soil fertility and fertilizers, precision farming technology, applications of Geographic Information System in agriculture, and a required work-based learning component in agri-business and agriculture equipment operations. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of the student's performance during their work-based learning experience, a comprehensive demonstration of proficiency in agriculture applications, as well as demonstration of Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Parkland College (Parkland or the College) was recently approved to offer a related 16 credit hour Ag Retail Operations Certificate. The proposed degree will provide an educational ladder opportunity for graduates of this certificate program.

Justification for Credit hours required for the degree

The proposed curriculum includes 12 credit hours of workplace exploration and practical learning in agri-business and ag equipment operations. The program developers, including local employers from the program advisory committee, support requiring this work-based learning component in the two-year degree curriculum as it provides students with valuable knowledge about workplace behavior and operations, as well as with practical skills for use in their future workplace.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for a two-year degree program in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, overall growth in employment of related occupations is expected to increase by about one percent statewide through 2026. The need for the proposed program comes primarily from local employers who see a significant need for individuals with advanced application technology skills. The College worked closely with these employers to develop a curriculum that would allow for transitioning from basic to advanced skill levels and broaden the scope for existing applications workers into areas of agri-business and retail operations.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Helena Agri Enterprises	Carmel, IN
United Prairie	Tolono, IL
Software Solutions Integrated	Shelbyville, IL
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA)	Bloomington, IL
Asmark Training Center	Bloomington, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Advanced Applicator Tech AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	15	15	15
Part-Time Enrollments:	5	5	5
Completions:	0	10	10

Financial/Budgetary Information

Three existing full-time and two new part-time faculty will be necessary to implement the program. Qualified faculty will hold a Bachelor's in Agriculture or closely related field for applicator coursework, at least two years of work experience in custom application and driving tractors for agricultural use, and a valid Illinois Commercial Applicator's License. At least one year of teaching experience is preferred. A Master's in Agronomy or closely-related field, at least two years of work experience and one year of teaching experience is required for agri-business and precision agriculture-related courses. All facilities are adequately in place, however some equipment will be necessary to implement the program. The program will otherwise be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	\$27,000	0	0
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs*	0	0	0
Other (specify)	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	\$39,000	\$12,000	\$12,000

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	Full-Time	Part-time	Full-Time	Part-time	Full-Time	Part-time
New Faculty	0	2	0	0	0	0
Existing Faculty	3	0	0	2	0	2

Staff Conclusion

Parkland 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.

Rend Lake College
468 North Ken Gray Parkway
Ina, IL 62846-2408
President: Mr. Terry Wilkerson

Proposed program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Facility Management (65 credit hours).

Program Purpose

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Facility Management will prepare individuals for entry-level employment or advancement in facilities management positions.

Catalog Description

This program is designed to prepare students for management positions of an organization's physical plant and assets. Upon completion of the curriculum, students should have thorough knowledge of building codes, building design and construction, mechanical and electrical systems operations, landscaping, groundskeeping, and asset management. A wide variety of career opportunities exist for individuals to be employed in manufacturing plants, hospitals, high-rise buildings, educational institutions, recreation centers, as well as hotels and motels.

Curricular Information

The degree program requires 15 credit hours of general education coursework and 50 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework. The career and technical component includes instruction in introductory facility management, building environments, waste management, fleet management, architectural building technology, architectural construction systems, mechanical and electrical systems, architectural building codes, plan and development of green facilities, building automation and control systems, energy modeling and management, landscape and grounds management, introductory horticulture, sustainable building design, industrial safety, and office accounting. The program will prepare individuals for the National Occupational Safety and Health Administration ten-hour Construction (workplace safety) Certification. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through a comprehensive research project and a portfolio review.

Justification for Credit hours required for the degree

The proposed curriculum aligns with Public Law 111-308 which requires building managers to hold certain competencies. The program also aligns with the International Association of Facility Managers competencies. The proposed degree requires only the necessary amount of general education and career and technical coursework to meet the minimum competency requirements.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by Rend Lake College (Rend Lake or the College) is supportive for programs in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, employment of related occupations is expected to see growth between 3.5 percent locally and 6.8 percent statewide through 2026. There are currently no other community college districts offering similar programs specific to facilities management.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Hamilton County Assessor	McLeansboro, IL
Edmison and Associates Architects	Mt. Vernon, IL
Architechniques Ltd	Herrin, IL
Prof. of Arch. Drafting Tech. Div.	Vincennes, IN
Gilbert Surveying, Inc	Mt. Vernon, IL
Round Table Design	Mt. Vernon, IL
Baysinger Design Group	Marion, IL
Mt. Vernon Neon	Mt. Vernon, IL
Shores Construction	Centralia, IL
Lipps Construction Company	Mt. Vernon, IL
City of Mt. Vernon	Mt. Vernon, IL
Lunsford Architects	Carterville, IL
Round Table Design	Mt. Vernon, IL
Depew and Owen Builders	Centralia, IL
Continental Tire North America Inc.	Mt. Vernon, IL
Franklin-Williamson County ROE	Benton, IL
Benton High School	Benton, IL
John Crawford Engineers/Surveyors	Carterville, IL
Hamilton County Coal	Dahlgren, IL
White and Borgognoni Architecture	Carbondale, IL
Southern Illinois University-	Carbondale, IL
Baysinger Architects	Marion, IL
Eggemeyer Associates Architects	Herrin, IL

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Facility Management AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	7	9	11
Part-Time Enrollments:	4	5	6
Completions:	-	6	13

Financial/Budgetary Information

Four existing part-time faculty will be required to implement the program. Resources will be shared with existing programs and will utilize all existing facilities and equipment. The program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	0	0	0
Administrator Costs	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Equipment Costs	0	0	0
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs*	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW COSTS	0	0	0

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	Full-Time	Part-time	Full-Time	Part-time	Full-Time	Part-time
New Faculty	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing Faculty	0	4	0	4	0	4

Staff Conclusion

Rend Lake 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.

Richland Community College
One College Park
Decatur, IL 62521-8513
President: Dr. Cristobal Valdez

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Agronomy degree (60 credit hours).

Program Purpose

The program will prepare individuals for entry-level employment in the field of agriculture production with an understanding of all aspects of the industry including crop production, precision agriculture, and business management.

Catalog Description

Learn about all aspects of crop production, precision agriculture, and business management from instructors with real-world experience. Located in the middle of “America’s Agribusiness Center,” this program offers resources that are unique from those of any other community college district. This degree is designed for those who are interested in pursuing a career in the crop science or agronomy sector. Graduates will be prepared for a variety of positions including: fertilizer and pesticide custom applicator; seed sales representative; precision agriculture specialist; crop scout; grain farmer; farm equipment operator; and farm manager.

Curricular Information

The degree program requires 16 credit hours of general education coursework and 44 credit hours of required career and technical education coursework. The career and technical component includes instruction in sales and marketing of agriculture products, pest management, crop scouting, agriculture business management, crop production, precision agriculture, soil fertility and nutrient management, crop management, Geographic Information System (GIS) applications for agriculture, computer applications for agriculture, field experience in agriculture, supervised work-based experience in agriculture, and a work experience practicum and seminar in agriculture. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of the student’s performance during their field and work-based learning experiences as well as through comprehensive projects in various ag areas.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the college supports the interest in and the need for a two-year degree program in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, projected employment growth for related occupations is around 3.5 percent statewide through 2026. Richland Community College (Richland or the College) worked with local employers and educators to design the curriculum as to particularly benefit local high school districts who offer dual credit in the academic general education and agriculture business courses.

Table 1: Employer Partners

Employers	Location
Growmark/Evergreen FS	Bloomington, IL (and multiple local locations)
Van Horn	Cerro Gordo, IL (and multiple local locations)
Sloan Implement, Inc.	Assumption, IL (and Taylorville, IL)

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

Agronomy AAS	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Full-Time Enrollments:	18	24	30
Part-Time Enrollments:	12	18	18
Completions:	-	18	27

Financial/Budgetary Information

One existing full-time, two existing part-time and two new (one full-, one part-time) faculty will be required to implement the program. Qualified faculty will hold at least a Bachelor’s degree, preferably a Master’s degree, in Agriculture, Agri-business, or closely related field, have at least one year related work experience in agronomy or crop production, and some teaching experience. The College has budgeted funds to purchase new equipment during the first year and anticipates costs related to GIS mapping software and soil and crop consumable during each of the first three years of operation. The program will share classroom space and some laboratory resources with existing agriculture and horticulture programs. The program will be fiscally supported through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Faculty Costs	\$8,000	\$65,000	\$67,000
Administrator Costs	\$66,000	\$67,000	\$69,000
Other Personnel Costs (student worker)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Equipment Costs	\$4,000	0	0
Library/LRC Costs	0	0	0
Facility Costs*	0	0	0
Other (Instruct Supplies)	\$2,400	\$2,000	\$2,400
TOTAL NEW COSTS	\$85,400	\$139,000	\$143,000

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>
New Faculty	1	1	0	0	0	0
Existing Faculty	1	2	2	3	2	3

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.