

APPROVED
AUGUST 4, 2020

Item #D-2
August 4, 2020

**NEW OPERATING AND/OR DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY
FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: New independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location, including a location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions also are required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the recommendations to grant degree-granting authority and/or operating authority to the following institutions:

Proprietary

Midwestern Career College

- Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the Chicago Region
- Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the West Suburban Region



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NEW OPERATING AND/OR DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY
FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has responsibility for administration of The Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005) and The Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010). Under these statutes, new independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location, including a location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions also are required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

Applications for new operating and degree-granting authority submitted by independent Illinois institutions and out-of-state institutions are reviewed by the staff. Recommendations are developed by applying criteria for operating and/or degree-granting authority, which are defined in the rules adopted for administration of the statutes and Board policies on assessment of student learning and specialized accreditation requirements for student licensure. These criteria encompass educational objectives, institution and degree titles, curricula, facilities, faculty and administrator qualifications, student policies, publications, records, compliance with pertinent laws, and fiscal stability. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials, responses to questions, and site visits. Out-of-region sites are defined as sites located within an IBHE approval region other than the region within which an institution's original operating authority was granted. There are ten IBHE approval regions; each is coterminous with one or more community college districts. Approval to operate within a new approval region entitles an institution to operate throughout the region, and not solely at the site at which the institution initially applied.

Proprietary Executive Summary

Midwestern Career College

- Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography

Midwestern Career College (MCC) requests authorization to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the Chicago and West Suburban Regions. The AAS in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography curriculum is 73 semester hours, including 18 hours of general education courses and 55 hours of core courses. Through coursework and externship, students will become knowledgeable in the use of diagnostic medical imaging radiography for the purpose of helping physicians diagnose illness and pathology. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and enter the workforce as an entry-level radiologic technologist.

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

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Midwestern Career College Authorization to Grant the Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the Chicago and West Suburban Regions, 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.

Midwestern Career College
100 South Wacker Drive, LL1-50
Chicago, IL 60606
Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld

Proposed Program Title in the Region of Authorization: Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the Chicago Region

Projected Enrollments: Midwestern Career College projects enrollment of ten students in the first year, rising to 20 by the fifth year of the program.

Proposed Program Title in the Region of Authorization: Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the West Suburban Region

Projected Enrollments: Midwestern Career College projects enrollment of ten students in the first year, rising to 20 by the fifth year of the program.

Institutional Accreditation: Midwestern Career College is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

Background and History

Midwestern Career College (MCC or the College) is a private, proprietary institution of higher education, which has been in existence since 2004. MCC prepares students for entry-level employment. The College was approved as a non-degree postsecondary school by the Illinois State Board of Education in 2004 prior to the transfer of oversight for Private Business and Vocational Schools to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in 2012, pursuant to the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act of 2012 (Public Act 97-650). In June 2011, the College changed its name from the Citi College of Allied Health to the current Midwestern Career College.

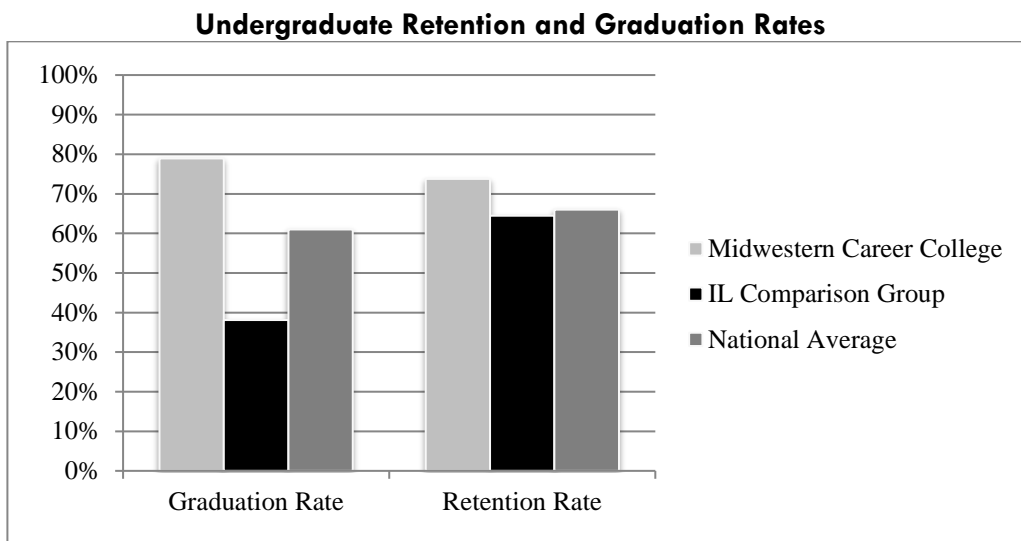
On December 6, 2011, the IBHE granted Midwestern Career College authorization to operate and grant the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology in the Chicago Region. Due to a change in the College's ownership, MCC applied and was authorized to operate in the Chicago Region on March 14, 2017. The College was also authorized to operate and grant the AAS in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology and AAS in Surgical Technology in the West Suburban Region on December 12, 2017. Since the change of ownership, the College has received approval to offer seven programs at the associate level: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technology; Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Non-Invasive Cardiovascular Sonography; Surgical Technology; Business Administration; Accounting; and Marketing in the Chicago Region. With this application, the College is seeking authorization of an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the Chicago and West Suburban Regions.

Institutional Data

1030.30(a)(3)(F): Success in student progression and graduation across all existing approved programs, and success rates in programs preparing students for certification and licensure, shall be consistent with expectations in higher education and the appropriate related field of study. At a minimum, the Board shall consider the following factors, based on results for similar institutions: (i)

Graduation rates, certificate and degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification aligned with thresholds set by State or national regulatory bodies; and (ii) Success rate, which shall be, at a minimum, higher than that of the lowest quartile of these measures for similar Illinois institutions defined as open versus competitive enrollment institutions and primarily associate versus primarily baccalaureate granting institutions. Exceptions may be made to the lowest quartile if an institution is above the national average for these measures using the same comparison categories of institutions.

This section includes information about institutional and student success measures for each institution seeking program approval. The institution’s rates will be compared to Illinois institutions from within a select comparison group and against the national standards or averages. For a proposed undergraduate program, this section will include undergraduate graduation rates, first-to-second year retention rates, student loan default rates, and any applicable licensure passage rates. For a proposed graduate program, this section will primarily focus on student loan default data since this measure also includes graduate students in the calculation.



Source: National System for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education
 Note: Midwestern Career College is in the associates-granting Illinois comparison group. Higher percentages are positive indicators.

Undergraduate Graduation Rate

MCC’s 2017-2018 graduation rate was 78.9 percent based on a cohort of 104 students. The national 2018 average graduation rate for private for-profit two-year institutions was 61 percent and the average among comparable Illinois institutions was 38.1 percent. The graduation rate measures the rate at which entering freshmen graduate within 150 percent of normal program length. Data are provided for six-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time bachelor’s degree-seeking students and three-year graduation rates for full-time associate degree-seeking students. The national standard for graduation rates is reported annually by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

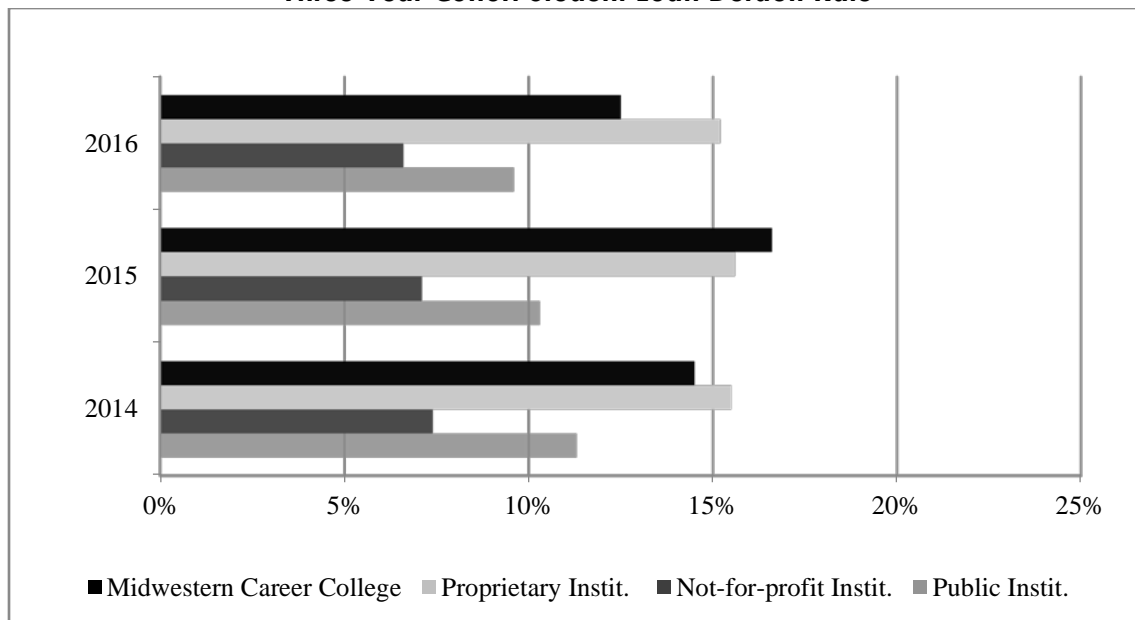
Undergraduate Retention Rate

MCC's 2017-2018 retention rate was 73.8 percent based on a cohort of 61 students. The national 2018 average retention rate for private for-profit two-year institutions was 66 percent and the average among comparable Illinois institutions was 64.5 percent. Retention rates examine the percentage of first-time degree seeking students enrolled in the fall of the prior year that are still enrolled in the fall of the current year. The national standard for retention rates is reported annually by the NCES.

Undergraduate Completions per 100 FTE

MCC's 2017-2018 completions per 100 full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE) rate was 46. The average among comparable Illinois institutions was 36.5. The FTE data is a unit of measurement intended to represent one student enrolled full-time for one academic year. The calculation is based upon credit/contact hours offered at an institution divided by a standard minimum (12 credit hour) full-time course load. The completions per 100 FTE data are included to provide a holistic view of completions across different student populations.

Three Year Cohort Student Loan Default Rate



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

Note: Midwestern Career College is a proprietary institution. A lower number is a positive indicator.

Student Loan Default Rate

The three-year student loan default rate for Midwestern Career College was 12.5 percent in 2016, 16.6 percent in 2015, and 14.5 percent in 2014. The three-year cohort student loan default rate is the percentage of a school's borrowers who enter repayment on certain Federal Family Education Loan Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program loans during a particular federal fiscal year, October 1 to September 30, and default or meet other specified conditions prior to the end of the second following fiscal year. The U.S. Department of Education stated that the Fiscal Year 2016 three-year national cohort average default rate was 10.1

percent. The Fiscal Year 2016 three-year national cohort average default rate breakdown by institutional sector was: 9.6 percent for public institutions; 6.6 percent for not-for-profit institutions; and 15.2 percent for proprietary institutions.

Mission and Objectives

1030.60(a)(2): The objectives of the certificate or degree program must be consistent with what the degree program title implies.

1030.60(a)(3): The requested certificate or degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.

The proposed program is consistent with the purpose, goals, objectives, and mission of the institution. The requested degree title is in alignment with the corresponding degree program objectives and curriculum.

Curriculum/Assessment

1030.60(a)(4): The caliber and content of the curriculum shall assure that the stated certificate or degree objectives for which the program is offered will be achieved.

Admission

All applicants to the College must be at least 18 years old, possess a high school diploma or a state-recognized equivalent certificate such as the GED. All applicants must also submit a personal statement and pass an Accuplacer entrance exam with a minimum arithmetic score of 252 and reading comprehension score of 246. Applicants must schedule and attend an interview with an admissions representative.

Curriculum

The AAS in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography curriculum is 73 semester hours, including 18 hours of general education courses and 55 hours of core courses. The proposed program is designed for students who plan to learn more about radiography and become professionals in the health care field. The program covers topics in biology, radiation safety, radiation protection, proper patient positioning, patient safety, equipment, image analysis, anatomy and pathology. Through coursework and externship, students will become knowledgeable in the use of diagnostic medical imaging radiography for the purpose of helping physicians diagnose illness and pathology. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam and enter the workforce as an entry-level radiologic technologist.

Assessment of Student Learning

The proposed program has stated goals and learning outcomes that are tied to course assignments. Students' learning will be assessed through course quizzes, tests, and written assignments. Each of the graded components of any course is targeted to course goals and objectives, which in turn are targeted to the overall program objectives. Externship is required for the AAS in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography for students to learn how to apply skills

acquired during the program. The primary means of assessment is with the individual instructors of the course. During each course, the student's work is continually evaluated and assigned a grade.

Program Assessment

The College has developed an ongoing assessment plan to guide the evaluation and improvement of its academic programs. Curriculum evaluation occurs at the completion of each course. Students are requested to fill out an evaluation form upon completing their coursework. The evaluation focuses on the performance of the instructor, learning resource center and the lab's usefulness, as well as the curriculum of the course. The results are aggregated and delivered to the Director of Academic Operations as well as individual faculty. The data are used as evaluation and training materials for the faculty as well as the basis for curriculum alterations. MCC also conducts a similar evaluation process through graduate surveys. The graduates of the program are able to evaluate the programs holistically. The data are aggregated and used to assess the curriculum and to identify needs for curriculum modifications. The College will follow these existing protocols for continuous improvement.

Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)

1030.60(a)(5): The institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to support institutional programs.

The proposed AAS in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography will be offered at the College's main campus in Chicago, Illinois, and an extension location in Naperville, Illinois. The College plans to use the main campus in Chicago and an extension location within the Chicago Region, both located in downtown Chicago. The main campus facility has four labs/classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, and administrative offices. The campus extension in Chicago has seven classrooms, five labs, and administrative offices totaling 19,681 square feet. The campus extension in the West Suburban Region has five lecture classrooms, two medical laboratories, four administrative offices, an instructor lounge, a student lounge, and a Learning Resource Center (Library). The College classrooms have laptops and projectors for use by the faculty and for the students to utilize during audio-visual presentations. Classrooms are also equipped with whiteboards, instructor desk and a chair, video-surveillance cameras, wired internet access for the instructor computer, and wireless internet access for students.

MCC's Library Resource Center (LRC) has the resources suitable for the proposed program. The library has a collection of books, audio, and video materials relevant to the program. MCC has contracts with Gale Virtual Resource Library (GVRL) and ProQuest for a number of database packages, providing unlimited access to electronic resources for students. The College has also secured remote access privileges, which allows students to utilize the materials both from school and from other locations. Furthermore, MCC has established a partnership with Cengage that gives students the option of purchasing e-books that reduce the book cost for the program. The students use MindTap software for additional practical exercises.

Faculty and Staff

1030.60(a)(6): The education, experience and other qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors and instructors shall ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program.

MCC has established policies to ensure that faculty members possess the training, credentials, and other required qualifications to provide instruction to students. The College also has established policies to evaluate faculty and provide feedback on student learning outcomes.

Fiscal and Personnel Resources

1030.60(a)(8): Fiscal and personnel resources shall be sufficient to permit the institution to meet obligations to continuing programs while assuming additional resource responsibilities for the new certificate or degree program.

The College has submitted five-year fiscal plans that indicate operational revenue will exceed expenditures for the projected five years of operation.

Accreditation/Licensure

Midwestern Career College is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education. The College is approved by ARRT, a credentialing organization that recognizes qualified programs in medical imaging profession. Graduates who have completed all requirements for the Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography Program will be eligible to sit for the ARRT exam and apply for recognition to work in Illinois as administered by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). IEMA requires accreditation of candidates in order to be eligible for employment and a student must graduate from an ARRT-certified school.

Program Information

1030.60(a)(7): The information the institution provides for students and the public shall accurately describe the programs offered, program objectives, length of program, schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. This information, including any enrollment agreements or similar agreements, shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.

The College submitted detailed and adequate information on the College's academic policies, tuition, fees, and refund policies, admissions procedures, and other relevant information necessary for prospective students to make informed decisions on enrollments.

Staff Conclusion

The staff concludes that Midwestern Career College and its proposed program meet the criteria in Sections 1030.30 and 1030.60 of the rules to implement The Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005) and The Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010, and the relating Illinois Administrative Code (Title 23 Section 1030) pertaining to the assessment and licensure of a post-secondary institution.