

**APPROVED**

**DECEMBER 8, 2020**

Item #F-1  
December 8, 2020

**NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval of one new associate degree program to be offered at one community college.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the following program at the college indicated:

Morton College

- Associate in Engineering Science



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**

Morton College

- Associate in Engineering Science

Morton College is seeking approval to offer a 65-credit hour Associate in Engineering Science (AES) degree for students planning to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree upon transfer to a baccalaureate institution. The proposed AES degree curriculum is closely aligned with lower division coursework at universities offering bachelor's degree programs in all engineering majors. The College has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources in place to support the proposed program. The College plans to renovate several existing laboratories specifically for engineering coursework and purchase equipment using existing federal Title III grant funds. Federal Title III funds provide grants to institutions that serve a high percentage of low income and underserved students with an emphasis on strengthening their academic, administrative, and fiscal capacities. The program will otherwise be supported fiscally through student tuition and fees.

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 authority to Morton College to offer the Associate in Engineering Science 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.*

**Morton College**  
**3801 South Central Avenue**  
**Cicero, IL 60804**  
**President: Dr. Stanley Fields**

**Proposed Program Title:** Associate in Engineering Science (65 credit hours)

The program will prepare individuals for students planning to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree upon transfer to a baccalaureate institution.

### **Catalog Description**

The Associate in Engineering Science degree is designed for students who want to complete an individualized associate degree that provides educational options beyond those available in other degree programs. The program will prepare individuals for students planning to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree upon transfer to a baccalaureate institution.

### **Curricular Information**

The AES requires 65 credit hours including 36 credit hours of general education and 29 credit hours of major coursework. Major requirements include coursework in engineering, engineering graphics, differential equations, introductory and intermediate physics, statics, dynamics, and C++ programming. The proposed AES degree curriculum is closely aligned with lower division coursework at universities offering bachelor's degree programs in all engineering majors. To gain admission to the AES, students must meet the general admission standards for the College. The AES degree program at Morton College will target recent high school graduates or returning students who are especially strong in math, science, and writing skills. The proposed AES degree program at Morton College will provide a clear and articulated academic pathway for students pursuing a baccalaureate/transfer engineering degree, reducing the cost for students.

### **Financial/Budgetary Information**

Existing classroom, computer labs, and libraries are adequate for the implementation of the proposed program. However, the College plans to renovate several existing laboratories specifically for engineering coursework and purchase equipment with existing Title III grant funds. Federal Title III funds provide grants to institutions that serve a high percentage of low income and underserved students with an emphasis on strengthening their academic, administrative, and fiscal capacities. The program will otherwise be supported fiscally through student tuition and fees.

### **Staff Conclusion**

Morton 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.