

**APPROVED**  
**March 15, 2023**



John Lynch  
Interim General Counsel

Item #G-3  
March 15, 2023

**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 the 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 are also required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

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

**Proprietary Executive Summary**

Midwestern Career College

- Operating Authority in the South Metro Region
- Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology in the South Metro 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. In addition to the approval criteria in rules, each new program was reviewed for its contributions to the goals of the *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Pathways to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*, which sets forth priorities to guide Illinois higher education. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions.

This item includes recommendations to grant operating authority and degree-granting authority to one institution.

**Proprietary Executive Summary**

Midwestern Career College

- Operating Authority in the South Metro Region

Midwestern Career College (MCC or the College) is a private, proprietary institution of higher education that has been in existence since 2004. The College prepares students for entry-level employment and professional certification in the fields of Allied Health, Business, and Information Technology. MCC holds permits of approval to operate as a Private Business and Vocational School (PBVS) at five locations in the greater Chicago area including Chicago,

Naperville, Skokie, and Evergreen Park. It also has authorities from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to operate and confer degrees in the Chicago, West Suburban, and North Suburban Regions.

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. Later that year, 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. Subsequently, 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. In 2020, MCC was authorized to operate and grant the AAS in Business Administration in the North Suburban Region as well as the AAS in Business Administration in the West Suburban Region on April 30, 2020. On August 4, 2020, the College was granted authorization to offer the AAS in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography in the Chicago and West Suburban Regions. Midwestern Career College was granted authorization to offer the AAS in Information Technology in the Chicago region on December 8, 2020.

With this application, the College is seeking authorization to operate and offer the AAS in Surgical Technology in the South Metro Region; pending IBHE approval, MCC will suspend offering the AAS in Surgical Technology at its Naperville campus in the West Suburban Region. All currently enrolled students in the AAS in Surgical Technology program in the Naperville campus have been taught out. MCC currently provides short-term training programs as a permitted PBVS at its Evergreen Park campus in the South Metro Region. This location is fully operational with programs accredited by the Council on Occupational Education. This same site will serve as the location for the proposed operations to offer an associate degree. There are policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide instruction. The College has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources in place to support the proposed operations.

Midwestern Career College serves a diverse demographic of students: 90 percent working adults, 40 percent students of color (22 percent Black and 18 percent Latino), 79 percent low-income students, and 81 percent female. The College has provided plans for the enrollment, retention, and completion of underrepresented and underserved populations. MCC will expand their application pool to the Southside of Chicago, physically bringing the College to a geographical region of underrepresented students. Only one independent institution and one community college offer a Surgical Technology program in the South Metro Region, and hospital partners are in support of the opportunity to have an additional school in the region to train graduates for much-needed surgical technology positions in the workforce. The admissions team at the Evergreen Park location will advertise the Surgical Technology program along with the marketing that currently takes place with PBVS programs. The College has established institutional and third-party scholarships that help make educational programs affordable for all students including those that are underrepresented, awarding \$269,150 for the 2021-2022 academic year. Wrap-around support is provided through advising sessions; personal and career counseling; academic support including tutoring, remediation, skill practice sessions, and supervised lab time; as well as resources from the Learning Resource Center.

- Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology in the South Metro Region

Midwestern Career College requests authorization to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology in the South Metro Region. The program requires 69 credit hours with basic concepts of anatomy and physiology, pathology, microbiology, and pharmacology to prepare entry-level surgical technologists for positions within all specialty areas. Students will be trained to perform the skills expected of them which involve knowing the various instruments commonly used in the field and how to maintain a sterile environment during procedures. Concepts covered in the courses include temporary and permanent hemostasis, layered wound closure, surgical procedures, instrumentation identification, equipment sterilization and proper handling, surgical supplies management, patient prep, scrubbing, and gowning, gloving self as well as team members. Graduates of the program meet the educational requirements to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) certification through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) and are eligible to apply to be a registered surgical technologist in the State of Illinois.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Midwestern Career College authorization to operate in the South Metro Region and to grant the 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.*

**Midwestern Career College**  
**100 South Whacker Driver**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60606**  
**President: Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld**

**Seeking Operating Authority:** South Metro Region

**Proposed Program Title in the Region of Authorization:** Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology in the South Metro Region

Projected Enrollments and Degrees

First Year Enrollment	Fifth Year Enrollment	Degrees Awarded Fifth Year
15	20	16

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

### **Background and History**

Midwestern Career College (MCC or the College) is a private, proprietary institution of higher education that has been in existence since 2004. The College prepares students for entry-level employment and professional certification in the fields of Allied Health, Business, and Information Technology. Midwestern Career 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 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. MCC holds permits of approval to operate as a Private Business and Vocational School (PBVS) at five locations in the greater Chicago area including Chicago, Naperville, Skokie, and Evergreen Park. It also has authorities from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to operate and confer degrees in the Chicago, West Suburban, and North Suburban Regions.

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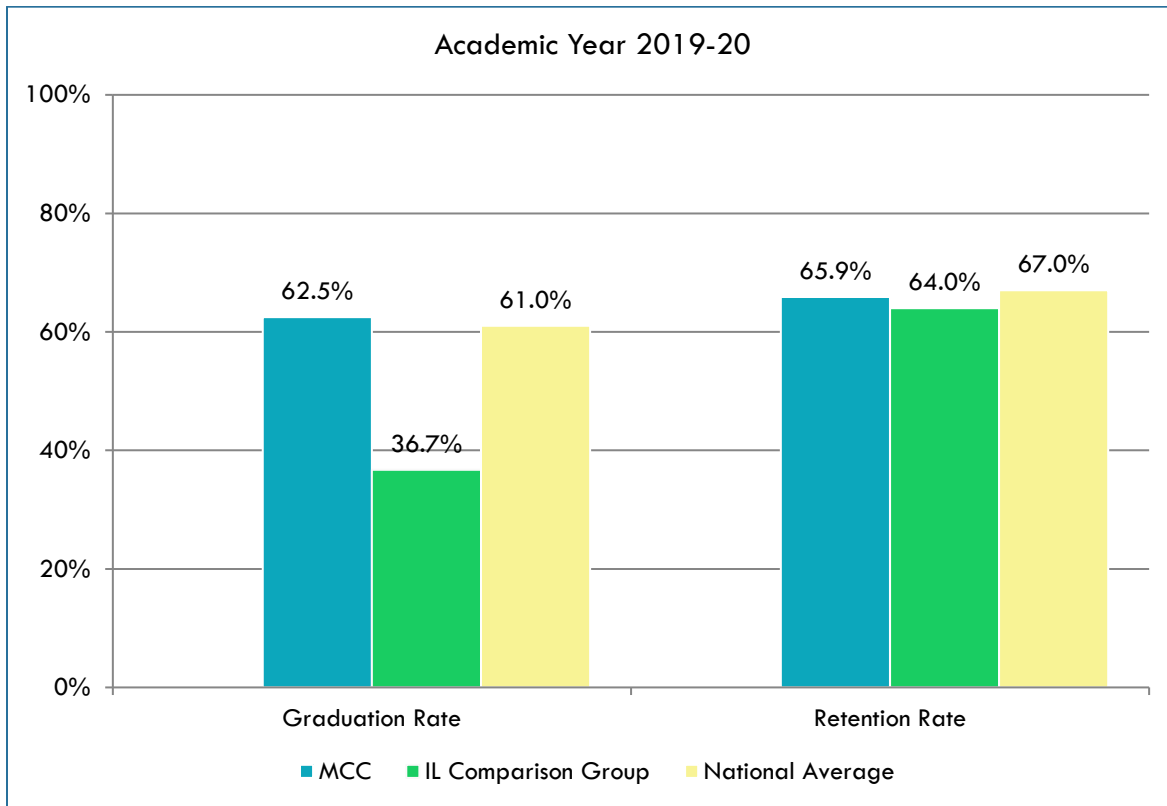
### **Institutional Data**

*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.*

*1030.30(a)(3)(G): Additional student success measures shall be considered in the review of applications for authorization. The Board shall establish minimum rates of success based on results for similar institutions or thresholds set by State or federal regulatory bodies. i) At a minimum these data shall include student loan default rates, student indebtedness rates, job placement rates, student learning measures and other success indicators. ii) Institutions that participate in Federal Student Loan programs shall have 3-year Official Cohort Default rates no higher than 25 percent. Institutions with Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Scores shall have a score that is no lower than 1.0. Institutions that fail to meet these thresholds may be restricted from implementing new certificate or degree programs. iii) The success rate 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.

## Undergraduate Graduation Rates and Retention



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

### Undergraduate Graduation Rate

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

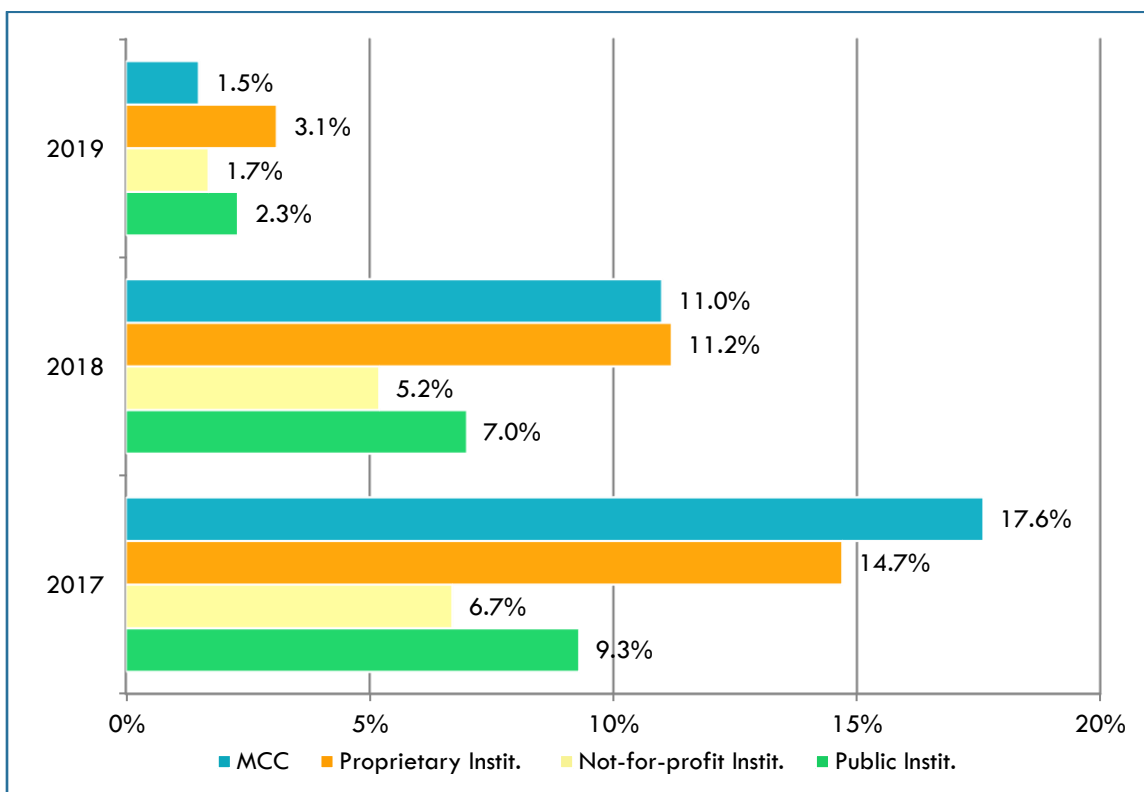
Retention rates examine the percentage of first-time degree seeking students enrolled in the fall of the prior year that are still enrolled in the fall of the current year. The national standard for retention rates is reported annually by NCES.

### Undergraduate Completions per 100 FTE

Academic Year 2019-20	Midwestern Career College	Comparable Illinois Institutions
	53	38.3

The full-time equivalent (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 hours) full-time course load. The completions per 100 FTE data are included to provide a holistic view of completion across different student populations.

Three-Year Cohort Student Loan Default Rate



Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), US Department of Education  
 Note: The national cohort default rate for fiscal year 2019 is 2.3 percent. A lower number is a positive indicator.

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.

## Need

*Public Act 102-1046, 110 ILCS 1005/4, Sec. 4 (7): That the proposed degree program is educationally and economically consistent with the educational priorities and needs of this State and meets a need that is not currently met by existing institutions and is supported by clear evidence of need. If the examination shows that the applicant has such qualifications a certificate of approval shall be issued.*



Careers in surgical technology are in demand and offer wages that may economically elevate individuals and their families. Based on the data available from U.S. Bureau for Labor Statistics, the median pay for surgical technologists is \$48,510 with a six percent projected growth outlook for the period of 2021 – 2031. Additionally, ONET shows Chicagoland median wage as \$49,730 for this role. It is also key that the proposed program results in an associate in applied science degree and the opportunity to sit for the Certified Surgical Technology certification, which is preferred by many clinical partners. As surgical technology is an entry level career, graduates may continue their education by earning certifications that will enable them to specialize in certain areas such as cardiovascular, orthopedic, or neurological surgeries and enhance their careers. They may also pursue certification as a surgical first assistant aiding in more advanced intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation. Lastly, graduates can choose to obtain a bachelor's degree which may help advance their careers and enable a greater voice in their profession and community.

Comparable Degree Programs and Regions

Institution	Degree	Region
Midwestern Career College	AAS in Surgical Technology	West Suburban and Chicago
Rasmussen University	AAS in Surgical Technologist	South Metro and Fox Valley
Stautzenberger College – Rockford Career College	AAS in Surgical Technology	Fox Valley

Source: IBHE Program Inventory

According to data from the Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Board of Higher Education program inventory, there are 17 community colleges and three independent institutions offering associate-level surgical technology programs in the state. In the proposed South Metro Region, there is one community college (Prairie State) and one proprietary institution (Rasmussen University) that offer a surgical technology program.

Midwestern Career College currently has 54 clinical partners in the Chicagoland area that support the Surgical Technology program. Within a 35-mile radius of the Evergreen Park location, there are 24 South Side Chicago, South Suburban, and Northwest Indiana clinical partners. The College provided letters of support from UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Franciscan Health System, and Cook County Health Workforce Development, all of which emphasized the need in the area for an additional surgical technology program. UChicago Medicine noted in their letter of support that they are having difficulty attracting candidates to fill their open surgical technology positions despite having a \$5,000 sign-on bonus. MCC's established clinical relationships, coupled with the need for this role will create a pipeline of graduates to staff operating rooms and therefore help maintain the health of the community as well as the financial health of surgical facilities.

### **A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth**

The proposed College submitted plans to support Goal 1, Equity, of *A Thriving Illinois* to close the equity gaps for students who have historically been left behind. Midwestern Career College serves a diverse body of students. According to the College, 90 percent enrolled students are working adults, 40 percent are students of color (22 percent Black and 18 percent Latino), 79 percent are low-income students, and 81 percent are female.

The College has shared their institutional-level plans for continuing to recruit, support, and retain a diverse group of students, including working adults, students of color, transfer, and low-income students. The College fosters relationships with community-based organizations that share MCC's mission of delivering career-focused opportunities to empower students with academic training, technical expertise, and professional support to launch or advance careers. This includes partnerships with non-profit organizations, federal and state-funded programs, and high school networks. The campus plan will integrate retention efforts currently underway with a series of program-specific action plans designed to accomplish the College's three-year strategic goals.

Additional wraparound services include virtual student events to foster community building among students and individual advising sessions to support students in need of focused advisement. The College outsources counseling services for issues that require a higher level of assistance beyond what non-counseling professionals can provide. Career services plan to develop a series of events related to careers and career exploration. Program Directors and Academic Managers will work in coordination with Student Services to develop on campus activities that are program related and general to increase student interactions outside of the classroom. This includes exploring the opportunity to develop student organizations on campus to promote student leadership.

The proposed program will contribute to Goal 2, *Sustainability, to build a stronger financial future for individuals and institutions by finding ways to reduce the financial burden of education on students and their families.* Midwestern Career College has established institutional and third-party scholarships that help make educational programs affordable for all students including those that are underrepresented. The College will offer financial support in the form of tuition discounts, scholarships, transfer credit, and Pell grants to qualifying students from low-income backgrounds. MCC works hard to keep tuition affordable by providing a wide variety of scholarships to meet every need. For the 2021-2022 academic year, \$269,150 in scholarships were awarded. Students are also eligible for payment plans for their portion of tuition. The College has plans to expand the financial donor base, which will make costs more affordable for low-income and underrepresented students. Also, to reduce the transportation barrier and cost burden for students commuting in a metropolitan city like Chicago, MCC instituted digital transportation boards that enable students to connect with each other in each area of the city to carpool to class, thereby lowering the ancillary costs of attending.

The proposed program will also contribute to Goal 3, *Growth, to increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth.* MCC's institutional accreditation requires instructors of the program to maintain relationships and connection to the industry. The instructors visit clinical sites in the hospitals and supervise students during their clinical experience in addition to meeting with surgical managers and preceptors regularly. The College hosts Occupational Advisory Committee meetings which include perioperative professionals that review the curriculum and discuss proposed modifications to keep up with the industry trends.

MCC's externship sites have the potential to lead to full-time employment opportunities, keeping graduates in Illinois after completion of their degree. When surgical technologists are hired in small surgicenters, sterile processing skills become highly sought by hiring managers. MCC graduates are prepared with the training and can seek additional industry credentials such as the Certified Sterile Processing and Distribution Technician certification to increase employability and higher salaries upon getting an entry-level position in the field.

The College has included letters of support for the Surgical Technology program from hospitals in the surrounding area including UChicago Medicine and Franciscan Health System expressing the vital role that surgical technologists play as part of the perioperative team. UChicago states that they have experienced two simultaneous trends in surgical technology involving higher-than-average turnover and a lack of qualified applicants. Over the past four years, UChicago Medicine has hired over 75 surgical technologists and due to continued growth in the perioperative services, there is an average vacancy rate of 10 openings at any given time. They further state that there is an abundance of untapped talent in the south side of Chicago that would eagerly welcome the opportunity to pursue a locally-based educational program that would lead to gainful employment.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(1) provides that the objectives of the degree program(s) must be consistent with what the degree program title(s) imply.*

*Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.*

The program is consistent with the purpose, goals, objectives, and mission of the College. The requested degree title reflects the program's objectives and curriculum.

### **Curriculum / Assessment**

*1030.30(a)(3): The caliber and content of each course or program of instruction, training or study shall be reasonable and adequate for achieving the stated objectives for which the course or program is offered. An undergraduate curriculum shall include general education in alignment with the degree level and objectives.*

*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 Midwestern Career 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 pass an institutional entrance exam with a minimum arithmetic score of 252 and reading comprehension score of 246. Admission is subject to the outcome of the interview with the program director and faculty when applicable.

### **Curriculum**

The Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology is a 69-credit hour program that includes 54 credit-hours of core courses and 15 credit-hours of general education courses designed to prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists. Students learn surgical routine techniques including how to prepare, clean, and restock operating rooms; use and maintain surgical equipment; perform scrub and circulator duties in several surgical specialties; and contribute to pre- and post-operative patient care. In addition to becoming certified surgical technologists, students also can seek certification as a Sterile Processing Technician.

The program includes two practicum experiences to introduce students to the operating room as well as scrub and circulating routines in a supervised setting. Graduates of the program meet the educational requirements to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) certification through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) and are eligible to apply to be a registered surgical technologist in the State of Illinois.

For new students, MCC uses a self-directed online college success course to introduce them to tools and resources that will aid in their academic success. The College utilizes an early alert to identify at-risk students and the college administration runs At-Risk Students Reports to ensure the students with academic difficulties receive timely assistance. The Program Director will monitor grades after midterms and finals and use instructor feedback to identify students who may be struggling academically or may require tutoring or advising. The Program Director and the Student Services Coordinator contact the at-risk students to assist them with wraparound support to help them succeed academically. The resources offered by MCC include tutoring for didactic courses, remediation for laboratory courses completed by the program faculty, and peer skill practice sessions. Extra supervised lab time is available at no cost to students who experience academic difficulties. The students are also connected to resources from the Learning Resource Center (LRC) and form student study groups by program and subject matter.

#### Assessment of Student Learning

The College has established processes to measure and analyze student learning outcomes data. Direct measures include formative and summative assessments, discussion posts, research assignments, small group work, and laboratory skills assessments which will be implemented in all didactic and laboratory courses. Direct student learning measures are assessed weekly through daily preceptor evaluations and weekly case journals while the student is at their clinical rotation. Indirect assessment measures include end of course evaluations, end of program evaluations, and retention reports. The academic assessment plan will measure students' progress, effectiveness of the curriculum, and student satisfaction and will be used to evaluate and improve the quality of learning and teaching and curriculum delivery.

Support services exist throughout MCC to support student learning. Student progress is monitored through the semester using an alert system, grade checks, and advising appointments. Appropriate and timely interventions are used to help students stay on track and receive wraparound support for emerging needs. Clinical experiences are a key component of the program and students are assessed regularly on required skills.

#### Program Assessment

The College has developed an ongoing assessment plan to guide the evaluation and improvement of its academic programs. At the conclusion of a course, students complete an evaluation which encompasses performance of the instructor, learning resource center and the lab's usefulness, as well as the curriculum. MCC also collects graduate surveys and employer feedback on student performance. The results are aggregated and delivered to the Director of Academic Operations as well as individual faculty. Data and feedback are reviewed by the Academic Council, Curriculum Review Committees, and Program Review Committees to ensure the curriculum is relevant and utilizes the appropriate modification process when necessary. The data are used as evaluation and training materials for the faculty.

## **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*1030(a)(4) and 1030.60(a)(5): The institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment, and instructional materials to support institutional programs.*

The Evergreen Plaza campus is located at 9730 S Western Ave in downtown Evergreen Park. The facility is accessible by public transportation. The facility is in compliance with all appropriate local, state, and federal ordinances and laws for use as an educational facility, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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. The College has contracts with Gale Virtual Resource Library (GVRL) and ProQuest for several database packages, providing unlimited access to electronic resources for students. Midwestern Career 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**

*1030.30(a)(5) and 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.*

Midwestern Career College has identified institutional policies that ensure faculty and staff hired possess the training, credentials, and other related qualifications to provide instruction at the institution. Faculty teaching in the proposed program will have the appropriate qualifications. A formal faculty evaluation process is in place.

The College has successfully recruited and retained a diverse faculty and has strategies in place to support their development to ensure the academic success of underserved populations. According to the College's Human Resources IPEDS report, 25 percent of MCC's staff identify as Black, 23.28 percent Hispanic, 12.07 percent Asian, and 5.17 percent identify as two or more races. The College strives to attract and retain diverse faculty and staff by using multiple strategies. In addition to posting job ads to the college website, they post and source candidates on Indeed and LinkedIn, targeting diverse and qualified staff. Current staff are encouraged to share job ads with their networks and refer employees. MCC includes diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in the new faculty onboarding process and provides ongoing training, professional development seminars, and quarterly in-services to stay abreast of industry trends. The College has a web portal dedicated to diversity and equity available to the MCC community. Faculty and academic staff are trained in identifying and working with at-risk students as well as using a universal form to document student meetings and advising sessions.

## **Fiscal / Personnel Resources**

*1030.30(a)(11): The institution should be financially stable and capable of assuring the revenues needed for meeting stated objectives and fulfilling commitments to students; and*

*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.*

Midwestern Career College has submitted fiscal plans indicating revenue will exceed operating expenditures over the next five years. The College's operational costs will be mainly supported by tuition revenue.

### **Accreditation/Licensure**

Midwestern Career College is accredited by the Commission on Council on Occupational Education and has been approved by the accrediting body to operate the Evergreen Park location in the South Metro Region. The Surgical Technology programs at MCC are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), and the College plans to seek programmatic accreditation for the new location pending IBHE authorization for the AAS in Surgical Technology in the South Metro Region. Graduates of the program meet the educational requirements to sit for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) certification through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) and are eligible to apply to be a registered surgical technologist in the State of Illinois.

### **Program Information**

*1030.30(e): Publications and Information. Institutions shall be scrupulously ethical in all communication with the public and with prospective students. School publications, advertisements and statements shall be wholly accurate and in no way misleading; and*

*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.*

Detailed information on academic policies, tuition, fees, refund policies, admissions procedures, and other relevant information necessary for prospective students to make informed decisions on enrollment were provided in the application and will be published on the College's website pending Board authorization.

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that Midwestern Career College and its proposed Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology 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 postsecondary institution.