

APPROVED
June 25, 2025

Melissa Bealon
Board Secretary Melissa Bealon

Item #F-4
June 25, 2025

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

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

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

Malcolm X College

- Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician

John Wood Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Mechanics

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. In addition to the approval criteria in rules, each new program was reviewed for its contributions to the goals of the higher education strategic plan, *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths 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.

Executive Summary

Malcolm X College

- Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician

Malcolm X College is seeking approval for a 69-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Medical Laboratory Technician. The program will prepare students for entry-level employment as medical laboratory technicians in labs and hospitals that specialize in medical and diagnostic testing. The curriculum includes 16 credit hours of required general education coursework and 53 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework include instruction in introductory and advanced human structure, introductory and advanced microbiology, medical lab technology, urinalysis and other body fluids, introductory and advanced hematology and coagulation, introductory and advanced immunohematology, phlebotomy (with a phlebotomy practicum), introductory and advanced immunology, introductory and advanced clinical chemistry, and introductory and advanced levels of clinical practice. The program will prepare students for industry certification through the American Society for Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) and the American Medical Technologists (AMT). Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance by program faculty and the worksite supervisor.

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

John Wood Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Mechanics

John Wood Community College is seeking approval for a 64-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Agricultural Mechanics (Ag Mechanics). The program is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment and career advancement in the agricultural mechanics industry. The curriculum includes 17 credit hours of required general education coursework and 47 credit

hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework include instruction in crop management technology, truck driver training fundamentals and operations, introductory and advanced levels of diesel technology, introductory and advanced levels of fluid power technology (hydraulics and pneumatics), maintenance and repair welding, agricultural mechanization skills, agricultural finance and records, and a required work-based learning experience related to agricultural mechanics. Graduates of the program will meet the requirements to take the commercial driver's license (CDL) exam through the Illinois Secretary of State. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance by program faculty and the worksite supervisor.

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

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to Malcolm X College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory 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 John Wood Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Mechanics, 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.

Malcolm X College
1900 West Jackson
Chicago, IL 60612
President: Mr. David Sanders

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician

Program Purpose

This program will prepare students for entry-level employment as medical laboratory technicians in labs and hospitals that specialize in medical and diagnostic testing.

Catalog Description

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Medical Laboratory Technician program prepares students with the skills to perform a variety of laboratory tests and analyze samples in the health care sector that aid in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases. Graduates of the program will be eligible for certification through the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) and the American Medical Technologists (AMT) for medical laboratory personnel.

Curricular Information

The curriculum includes 16 credit hours of required general education coursework and 53 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework includes instruction in introductory and advanced human structure, introductory and advanced microbiology, medical lab technology, urinalysis and other body fluids, introductory and advanced hematology and coagulation, introductory and advanced immunohematology, phlebotomy (with a phlebotomy practicum), introductory and advanced immunology, introductory and advanced clinical chemistry, and introductory and advanced levels of clinical practice. The program will prepare students for Medical Laboratory Technician credentialing. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance by program faculty and the worksite supervisor.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

The proposed program exceeds 60 credit hours to meet the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) standards for Medical Laboratory Technician training and related industry credentialing. These standards include a clinical practicum and seminar coursework as reflected in the proposed curriculum.

Accrediting Information

Malcolm X College (The College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The program must be accredited by the NAACLS prior to accepting students. The College is currently in the process of applying for NAACLS accreditation. Once accredited, students will be eligible to sit for related industry credentialing examinations.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

The College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes programs in this field of study. The College currently utilizes multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups to increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The College continues to utilize its long-standing partnerships with community-based organizations to reach the most underserved populations within the district. The College regularly promotes programs and services such as TRIO, the ACCESS Center for Disabilities, the Wellness Center, Food Pantry and Clothing Closet. Faculty monitor student progress through dedicated advising. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration through diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) advertising to diverse audiences, reviews existing policies and practices, and provides access to DEI support activities throughout the year. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty and employers as well as provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for training programs in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, employment growth for “clinical laboratory technicians” is expected to increase by 3.6 percent statewide through 2032.

Table 1: Employer Partners

| Employer | Location |
|--|-------------------|
| University of Chicago Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| University of Illinois at Chicago | Chicago, IL |
| Rush University | Chicago, IL |
| Rush Oak Park | Oak Park, IL |
| Advocate Trinity Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center | Chicago, IL |
| Advocate Good Samaritan | Downers Grove, IL |
| Advocate South Suburban Hospital | Hazel Crest, IL |
| Advocate Christ Medical Center | Rosemont, IL |
| Community First Medical Center | Chicago, IL |
| Provident Hospital of Cook County | Chicago, IL |
| Gottlieb Hospital | Melrose Park, IL |
| Loretto Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| MacNeal Hospital | Berwyn, IL |
| Mt. Sinai Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| Northwestern Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| Alverno-Presence St. Joseph | Chicago, IL |
| Alverno-Presence St. Mary and Elizabeth | Chicago, IL |
| Alverno-RMS PSC | Chicago, IL |
| St. Elizabeth PSC | Chicago, IL |
| Cook County Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| Roseland Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| St. Anthony Hospital | Chicago, IL |
| South Shore Hospital | Chicago, IL |

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

| Medical Lab Tech, AAS degree | First Year | Second Year | Third Year |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Full-Time Enrollments: | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Part-Time Enrollments: | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Completions: | - | 8 | 9 |

Financial and Budgetary Information

The programs will require one existing full-time faculty and one existing part-time faculty for the first year. The program director will hold at least a master's degree in medical laboratory science, a current ASCP or AMT Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) credential, have at least one year work experience, and at least three years teaching experience. Qualified faculty will hold at least a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science, hold current ASCP or AMT MLS credentials, have at least one year of work experience, and one year of teaching experience. Costs to implement the program are primarily for faculty and equipment. Facilities, including lab space that comply with accreditation guidelines, are currently in place pending the accreditation site visit. The program will be supported fiscally through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

| | First Year | Second Year | Third Year |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Faculty Costs | \$111,000 | \$115,000 | \$120,000 |
| Administrator Costs | \$95,000 | \$100,000 | \$115,000 |
| Other Personnel Costs (site coordinator) | \$80,000 | \$85,000 | \$90,000 |
| Equipment Costs/Service Agreements | \$155,890 | \$10,000 | \$12,000 |
| Library/LRC Costs | - | - | - |
| Facility Costs | - | - | - |
| Other | - | - | - |
| TOTAL NEW COSTS | \$441,890 | \$310,000 | \$337,000 |

Table 4: Faculty Requirements

| | First Year | | Second Year | | Third Year | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time |
| New Faculty | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Existing Faculty | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

Staff Conclusion

Malcolm X College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

John Wood Community College
1301 South 48th Street
Quincy, IL 6230
President: Dr. Bryan Renfro

Proposed Program Title: Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Mechanics

Program Purpose:

This program will prepare students for entry-level employment and career advancement in the agricultural mechanics industry.

Catalog Description:

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Agricultural Mechanics (Ag Mechanics) program is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment and career advancement in the agricultural mechanics industry. Students will learn the fundamental knowledge and technical skills to operate and maintain agricultural equipment. Graduates of the program will meet the requirements to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL).

Curricular Information

The curriculum includes 17 credit hours of required general education coursework and 47 credit hours of career and technical education coursework. Career and technical coursework include instruction in crop management technology, truck driver training fundamentals and operations, introductory and advanced levels of diesel technology, introductory and advanced levels of fluid power technology (hydraulics and pneumatics), maintenance and repair welding, agricultural mechanization skills, agricultural finance and records, and a required work-based learning experience related to agricultural mechanics. Graduates of the program will be eligible to take the CDL exam through the Illinois Secretary of State. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through the evaluation of student performance by program faculty and the worksite supervisor.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree:

The proposed Ag Mechanics program exceeds 60 credit hours due to the required work-based learning internship course. Based on input from local employer partners, this internship is critical for graduates to obtain entry-level and advanced employment.

Accrediting Information

John Wood Community College (The College) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. No further specialized accreditation is required.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

The College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes programs in this field of study. The College currently utilizes multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups to increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration

through diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) advertising to diverse audiences, reviews existing policies and practices, and provides access to DEI support activities throughout the year. The College will intentionally expose students to a diverse set of faculty and employers as well as provide opportunities for students to learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds who work within the industry.

Supporting Labor Market Data (including employer partners)

Labor market information provided by the College supports the interest in and the need for training programs in this field of study. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, employment growth for occupations related to agricultural mechanics is expected to increase between 1.6 to 9.4 percent statewide through 2032. The proposed degree program provides an educational ladder opportunity for students and graduates of the College's existing certificate programs in agricultural applications, diesel technology, and truck driver training.

Table 1: Employer Partners

| Employer | Location |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Birkey's | Quincy, IL |
| Heritage Tractor | Quincy, IL |
| Beard Implement | Multiple locations, IL |
| Jenner Ag | Multiple locations, IL |

Table 2: Projected Enrollments

| Ag Mechanics, AAS degree | First Year | Second Year | Third Year |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Full-Time Enrollments: | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Part-Time Enrollments: | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| Completions: | - | 5 | 5 |

Financial and Budgetary Information

The programs will require six existing full-time faculty and one existing part-time faculty in the first year. Qualified Agriculture faculty will hold at least a master's degree in agriculture sciences, have three years of work experience, and at least three years of teaching experience. Qualified faculty in the areas of diesel, industrial, and welding technology will hold at least a certificate, while an associate's degree is preferred in the field, along with at least one year of work experience, and one year of teaching experience. No new costs to implement the program are anticipated during the first three years. All facilities and equipment resources are currently in place and will be shared with existing programs. The program will be supported fiscally through student tuition and fees.

Table 3: Financial Information

| | First Year | Second Year | Third Year |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Faculty Costs | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Administrator Costs | - | - | - |
| Other Personnel Costs | - | - | - |
| Equipment Costs/Service Agreements | - | - | - |
| Library/LRC Costs | - | - | - |
| Facility Costs | - | - | - |
| Other | - | - | - |
| 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 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 |

Staff Conclusion

John Wood Community College and its proposed program meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as outlined in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.