



**Docket Item:**

Community College Approval: Portland Community College, AAS in Nursing - Breckinridge, 51.3801 – Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.

**Summary:**

Portland Community College proposes a new time-limited degree program in Nursing to enable former ITT Tech nursing students to complete their degrees. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program:  
Nursing Breckinridge, AAS



Portland Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to an AAS.

### **Program Summary**

The purpose of the Nursing-Breckinridge AAS is to provide a teach-out plan for students associated with IIT School of Nursing (Breckinridge) so that they can complete their education, as requested by HECC and CCWD. The program will be active for a limited period from winter 2017 through summer 2018. Once the cohort has completed the program the AAS will be inactivated.

The comprehensive program prepares students to be Registered Nurses. The core competencies address the need for nurses skilled in clinical judgement and critical thinking, evidence-based practices, relationship-centered care, interdisciplinary collaboration, assisting individuals and families in self-care practices for promotion of health and management of chronic and acute illness, and end-of-life care. Upon completion of the program students will be prepared to take Nursing Board Certification exam.

*1. Describe the need for this program by providing clear evidence.*

The HECC and CCWD contacted the VPASA of Portland Community College to request that Portland Community College provide a teach-out plan for the nursing students who were negatively impacted by the sudden closure of IIT. There are approximately 150 nursing students who may want to complete the IIT Technical Institute Breckinridge School of Nursing and Health Sciences AAS program in Nursing. If students are not provided an opportunity to complete their program, they will be encumbered with large student debt and no certification leading to a job. Or worse, they would need to begin a new program losing all the credits earned at IIT. There is a regional need for registered nurses as indicated in OLMIS.

*2. Does the community college utilize systemic methods for meaningful and ongoing involvement of the appropriate constituencies?*

The college leadership and select faculty has had extensive conversations with the nursing faculty and department chair from IIT, the people who developed the program and taught the courses. The college leadership has had extensive conversations with the PCC Registrar and have developed a plan for transferring in student credits from a non-regionally accredited university. The college has a policy which guides the process for transferring in such credit. The college leadership has had extensive conversations with faculty of general education courses which are required for the Breckinridge Nursing program. Upon review of the course syllabus they've determine that the general education courses taught at IIT are equivalent to PCC courses, reducing the # of additional credits students may need to take. There is one biology course which did not have a PCC equivalent and a new course was developed by biology faculty to fulfill the degree requirement. The program will serve all IIT students including veterans, minorities, and all students admitted into the program. Upon approval of the program PCC will hire the IIT nursing faculty to advise students, teach courses and supervise clinical sites.

3. *Is the community college program aligned with appropriate education, workforce development, and economic development programs?*

The program has been approved by the Oregon Board of Nursing. The instructors who will teach the courses meet the instructor qualifications as determined by the Oregon Board of Nursing. There are currently many job openings for registered nurses and according to OLMIS the occupation is expected to grow at about the statewide average. Reasonable employment opportunities exist. In the tri-county area the total job openings is projected to be 602.

4. *Does the community college program lead to student achievement of academic and technical knowledge, skills, and related proficiencies?*

The Breckinridge Nursing program is a comprehensive, 98 credit program which prepares students to be registered nurses. The courses are designed to be both sequential leading to mastery as well to be broad in the content covered by the courses. The instruction within the course of study focuses on evidence-based best practices used in the healthcare industry. The program is designed as a cohort allowing students to build relationships which will follow them out into the industry. In many of the classes there is a combination of direct instruction and practice on computer programs/simulators. The AAS includes 615 hours of clinical experience at sites in the community. The clinical requirement comes at the end of the program ensuring students are prepared for their experience. The program and all nursing courses have been approved by the Oregon Board of Nursing, ensuring the content prepares students to take the State Nursing Board certification examination and practice in the healthcare profession.

5. *Does the community college identify and have the resources to develop, implement, and sustain the program?*

The AAS Nursing-Breckinridge has been approved by the college, and the PCC Board of Trustees. PCC will provide all necessary resources to ensure students who want to complete the IIT/Breckinridge Nursing program at PCC will be able to do so. College leadership is working with CCWD and HECC leadership to acquire state funding so that the courses for the teach-out phase can be taught at an appropriate site and with the appropriate equipment. The same leadership group will assist in acquiring student information and instructional materials from the IIT Portland facility. All PCC students have access to libraries, disability services, and career services, the IIT students who transfer to PCC for the duration of their program will have available to them the same services as all other PCC students. The registrar's office is prepared to support the students by transferring in coursework as appropriate, and they will work with the students so that they can be awarded their AAS degree. The college will hire the IIT Nursing faculty to support students and teach classes during the teach-out phase of the program.

### ***Assurances***

Portland Community College has met or will meet the four institutional assurances required for program application.

1. *Access.* The college and program will affirmatively provide access, accommodations, flexibility, and additional/supplemental services for special populations and protected classes of students.
2. *Continuous Improvement.* The college has assessment, evaluation, feedback, and continuous improvement processes or systems in place. For the proposed program, there will be opportunities for input from and concerning the instructor(s), students, employers, and other partners/stakeholders. Program need and

labor market information will be periodically re-evaluated and changes will be requested as needed.

3. *Adverse impact and detrimental duplication.* The college will follow all current laws, rules, and procedures and has made good faith efforts to avoid or resolve adverse *intersegmental* and *intra*segmental impact and detrimental duplication problems with other relevant programs or institutions.
4. *Program records maintenance and congruence.* The college acknowledges that the records concerning the program title, curriculum, CIP code, credit hours, etc. maintained by the Office are the official records and it is the college's responsibility to keep their records aligned with those of the Office. The college will not make changes to the program without informing and/or receiving approval from the Office.