



Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Oregon Coast Community College, Certificate of Completion in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, within 51.0904-Emergency Medical Technology/Technician.

Summary:

Oregon Coast Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed certificate. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the certificate as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following certificate: Certificate of Completion in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician.



Oregon Coast Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to Certificate of Completion in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician.

Program Summary:

The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) provides basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. AEMTs function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight, performing interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The AEMT is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system. Minimum 20 credits. Students must meet all certificate requirements.

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

Emergency response agencies (including Fire Chief) of Lincoln County have requested that OCCC offer the more advanced level of EMT education. The Fire Chiefs of Lincoln County led by the Siletz Fire Chief reports current and anticipated ongoing demand for Advanced EMTs, especially in the rural communities where Paramedic resources are limited. Just in general terms regarding AEMTs: The higher scope will translate to a higher level of care for our communities and likely better patient outcomes. Lincoln County, bordering the ocean and distant from other populous areas, relies upon local resources more than most other Oregon counties. Combine that with seasonal tourism, and our limited first responders get asked to do more and more—with no guarantee of additional resources on the way. An AEMT first responder on scene may be able to initiate lifesaving treatments while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. It is not uncommon to have first responders ‘on-scene’ for 15 minutes or longer while awaiting the arrival of a paramedic on an ambulance. Lincoln County has a large rural area that emergency services have to cover with extended response times to areas like Eddyville and Logsden. It is known that the sooner a patient receives care, the better they do, so volunteers in those areas with AEMT skills could provide a higher level of care at an earlier stage, therefore increasing better patient outcomes. AEMT is a relatively new level of EMS Provider certification nationally, and a new prerequisite to Oregon EMT-Intermediate licensure (OAR 333-265-0014(13)). OCCC has provided EMT-Basic education since 2003. Because there was no state certificate for Advanced EMT there was no need to offer coursework leading to the certification. Now that certification is required, OCCC in collaboration with PCC, is prepared to offer coursework leading to the certification in the OCCC service area (Lincoln County). In the future thought will be to pursuing EMT Intermediate Certification.

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

Industry partners and local agencies have agreed to work with OCCC to provide clinical work experience and internships to Advanced EMT students. These clinical and internship experiences are mandated by OAR 333-265-0015. Contractual agreements with clinical and internship sites are also mandated prior to approval of each AEMT course by the Oregon Health Authority. A number of industry partners hold seats on the OCCC Nursing and Health Occupations Advisory Committee, which unanimously approved OCCC's pursuit of the AEMT Certificate Program at the Spring 2016 meeting. The OCCC College Counsel on 5/13/2016 gave permission to pursue this certificate and the OCCC Board of Education on 6/15/2016 voted unanimously to pursue this certification

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

The program supports developing a rural workforce by providing the education and training needed to fulfill a need of EMS Provider agencies in rural districts who cannot sustain a Paramedic. Those agencies need individuals who hold an Advanced EMT certificate and are prepared to serve the rural community. Upon completion of the 20-credit certificate individuals will be prepared to sit for the Oregon Advanced EMT certification. OCCC is an experienced provider of EMT Basic education for the service area. The Basic EMT program has been in existence at OCCC since 2003 and we have over 105 graduates. The addition of the AEMT certification will assist our students in achieving their career goals.

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

The curriculum equivalent for this Certificate program is the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards: Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Instructional Guidelines, as mandated by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians for those who will take the NREMT certification examinations. Oregon Health Authority mandates that AEMT candidates pass these examinations prior to licensure. Instructional methods include didactic and laboratory sessions, simulation exercises, clinical readiness simulation evaluation, clinical work experience, and field internships. The very nature and clinical/field work environment of the AEMT mandates development of critical thinking skills prior to assessing patients and developing treatment plans for diverse injuries and illnesses. Mentoring is an innate educational component of the clinical and internship experiences. The college has a rigorous assessment and evaluation process to determine how well students meet course outcomes and certificate outcomes. Students who complete the certificate will be evaluated to determine how well they met the certificate outcomes. Data resulting from outcome assessment is used for program improvement and determination of student learning.

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

Part-time faculty hold credentials and experience required to deliver the required content, and meet the stated outcomes, in accordance with bargaining unit criteria and accreditation standards. Agreements are in place with professional community partners to provide the needed clinical and internship experiences for the EMS Program, including hospital sites and ambulance agencies. OCCC has a history of producing positive results with respect to national standard examinations and has provided EMT Basic education for a number of years. The majority of career firefighters in the county are licensed at the EMT level (many of these individuals having received their EMT Basic training at OCCC), but they have expressed interest in moving to the next step with AEMT. Most of them would receive pay raises with the increased license (dependent on collective bargaining agreements). Pacific West Ambulance (PWA), the largest employer in the county, is looking into what other companies are currently doing, as the AEMT certificate is relatively new to Oregon. They will likely offer a similar pay raise if an AEMT was to take the place of an EMT on an ambulance. OCCC has made a commitment to the AEMT program and has both the resources and space to provide a quality program. Students also have access to instructional support, tutoring, financial aid assistance and academic advising. Other services include career guidance through the Career and Transfer Readiness Center.

Assurances

Oregon Coast 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.