



Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Southwestern Oregon Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Public Safety, within 43.9999, Security and Protective Services, Other.

Summary:

Southwestern Oregon Community College proposes a new AAS degree in Public Safety. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the degree as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following degree: AAS in Public Safety.



Southwestern Oregon Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to a degree in Public Safety.

Program Summary

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Public Safety program includes the necessary general education and specialized law enforcement, fire science and emergency medical technology coursework to prepare students for a career in law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical care, or security services. Students will learn fundamental skills in all areas of public safety. In the law enforcement area students will develop an understanding of Constitutional law, Oregon state laws and the basics of policing. The student will learn basic emergency medical skills necessary to provide emergency medical aid to those sick or injured. In the fire science area, students will study topics such as fire service culture, professional standards, tools and equipment, fire apparatus, and fire prevention. Using specific electives, students can choose to focus their studies in one particular area, or study a variety of topics in criminal justice, emergency medical services, and fire science.

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

The discussion surrounding the new program come from several areas. The first is the need for a program that combines multiple emergency response fields into one degree. At the present time, the only way to do this is to enroll in multiple degree programs that have overlap as no current degree allows for three disciplines within two years of study. In addition to the public sector where there are combined public safety agencies (Grants Pass and Manzanita in Oregon and many out of state) the private sector has many jobs that require cross training within the three disciplines. Some examples are casino security officers who need a background in the law and procedures with emergency medical and some firefighting training. They do not need a degree in one area but training in all. In addition to casinos mill security needs both a law and firefighting background, mall security is similar to casino in needing training in all three areas. While a degree is not needed for entry level positions, for advancement within those private and public agencies recommend or require higher education degrees.

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

Discussion at the fire science and criminal justice advisory committees has shown support and a need for this program.

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

Discussion with local police, fire and emergency medical services indicated a need for this type of educational program. Our students from outside of Oregon which Southwestern does have a high population of non-Oregonian students due to our residential facilities are wanting this type of degree as it is more common in some

areas of Central California and the Midwestern states. At the end of this program the student will have certifications in either emergency medical responder or emergency medical technician. They will have all the training necessary for firefighter I certification if they join a fire department or the city or business that they work for certify firefighters. Only the employing agency can issue the certification but we do provide the required training to obtain the certification in this program. The student will obtain the federal mandated first responder incident command training in ICS 100, 200, 300 and 400 plus the introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). In the elective section, the student may obtain unarmed professional security certification within the State of Oregon.

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

Based on the collaboration mentioned in standard B, the faculty at Southwestern reviewed the current degree programs curriculum and determined that the proposed set of courses be used to meet the needs of the students and potential employers in our district as well as across Oregon and the rest of the United States. The specific electives area allows for the student to tailor the degree to the main area of focus or to tailor it to the needs of a specific employer while still maintaining the overall public safety all around education. Cooperative Work Experience and/or Internships are required within the degree plan as they are considered crucial to the development of the student wanting an education within the public safety field. The courses are all current courses taught in one of our three degree areas. This will maintain academic and technical rigor in this new degree option. The public safety departments have worked out an arrangement for initial intake advising and continued advising of students within this new degree program. This consists of a full-time faculty member on campus during the summer months to assist with initial advising. A student entering the program will be advised by one of the current full time faculty members within the public safety disciplines to ensure career and employment information being relevant and timely for the student.

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

No new resources are needed to implement this program. The college has existing courses and faculty to provide this program.

Assurances

Southwestern Oregon 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,

3. employers, and other partners/stakeholders. Program need and labor market information will be periodically re-evaluated and changes will be requested as needed.
4. *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.
5. *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.