



Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Southwestern Oregon Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science, within 43.0203, Fire Science/Fire-Fighting.

Summary:

Southwestern Oregon Community College proposes a new AAS degree in Fire Science. 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 Fire Science.

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

Program Summary

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Fire Science program includes the necessary general education and specialized fire and emergency services coursework to prepare students for careers in the fire service. Students will learn fundamental firefighting skills such as utilizing protective clothing and equipment, conducting search and rescue operations, advancing hoselines, and operating fire streams. Students will also be challenged with the academic aspect of firefighting in subjects including building construction, fire behavior, strategies and tactics, and fire prevention. With the knowledge, skills, and abilities gained from this program of study, students will be aptly prepared for a career in the fire service.

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

The fire science program has existed at Southwestern for several decades. It directly supports our surrounding fire agencies in executing their training and education needs. It also provides a supply of personnel who perform workforce duties as part of their internship, and many students move on to enter the career workforce upon completion.

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

The fire science advisory committee has repeatedly stated the importance of the program to their agencies and its ongoing positive impact on the community.

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

The degree is aligned with the US Fire Administration's curriculum model. The degree also has career pathways certificates of completion built into it that provide workforce development opportunities

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

The program is designed to prepare students for fire service positions, as well as help students progress once working in the fire service.

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

The community college and local fire agencies already have the resources required for 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, 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.