

**Docket Item:**

Community College Approval: Tillamook Bay Community College, Associate of Applied Science Degree in Welding Technology, within 48.0508, Welding Technology/Welder.

**Summary:**

Tillamook Bay Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science Degree in Welding Technology. 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 Welding Technology.



**Tillamook Bay Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Welding Technology.**

**Program Summary**

TBCC's AAS in Welding Technologies will prepare students for a career in welding and welding related fields. The program covers Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW), Oxy-Acetylene, and Plasma Cutting. Students will be prepared to enter welding careers in Industrial Welding, Marine Welding, and Food Industry Welding. In addition, students will be prepared for welding related career fields such as Industrial Millwright, Structural Maintenance, and Agricultural Mechanic. At the end of the program, students will have the opportunity to achieve AWS Certification in a varying degree of welding modalities.

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

TBCC is the only training provider in Welding within a 70 mile radius. Students would likely have to relocate or drive long distances in order to participate in programs at other community colleges.

Advanced manufacturing (including Welding) is a workforce sector within the region. There is a high demand for this skill within the region.

According to qualityinfo.org, NW Oregon will experience a 10.8% increase in jobs over the next 10 years, which is higher than average. This is a sector-wide trend in manufacturing categories.

Local partners have indicated that there is a need for individuals to enter and successfully complete the program. The cooperative work experience supports students who plan to work in Tillamook County as well as other regions in Oregon.

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

TBCC has an active advisory committee facilitated by the Manufacturing and Apprenticeship Coordinator. The advisory committee members are also the instructors, for the most part. All are adjuncts and have full time positions in the fields of manufacturing or welding, in the county including fabrication shops, primary forest products, and machine shops.

The instructors support the welding program by reviewing the curriculum and ensuring that it aligns with industry standards. They also make sure the training equipment is up-to-date.

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

TBCC has an advantage in that all faculty in the program are adjunct instructors with full time positions in the field. As mentioned above, these individuals come from a variety of backgrounds in welding/fabrication. They have first hand knowledge of the needs within the field.

TBCC is currently exploring degree articulation with Oregon Institute of Technology.

There is also a career pathway certificate to serve as additional training for those already employed in the field. The certificate positions individuals for advancement in the field.

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

The program has been designed to prepare students to work in welding and fabrication shops. The training includes MSSC-Certified Production Technician Certification and the opportunity to certify welds through American Welding Society.

The career pathway certificate mentioned in Standard C also applies to Standard D.

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

As a new program, TBCC is adding a full-time instructional position in Welding. This full-time position will allow the college to provide instruction at varying times to meet the needs of students. In addition to this, we have expanded the hours in the welding shop to allow for appropriate lab and practice time.

TBCC has increased instructional capacity over the last few years. We have added three adjunct positions in welding and fabrication.

In 2018, TBCC collaborated with Neah-Kah-Nie School District to design and build a welding lab on a school campus. These students will receive dual credit for welding, which applies directly to the requirements for the welding degree.

***Assurances***

Tillamook Bay 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 *intrasegmental* 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.