

**Docket Item:**

Community College Approval: Treasure Valley Community College, Associate of Applied Science Degree in Ag Business, within 01.0101 – Agriculture Business and Management, General.

**Summary:**

Treasure Valley Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science Degree in Ag Business. 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 Ag Business.



Treasure Valley 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 Ag Business.

### Program Summary

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Agriculture Business prepares students for a wide variety of careers in Agriculture Business Management, including managing a farm or ranch, employment in the retail food production, producing fertilizer, or farm equipment sales. The program combines theory with the practical skills required for daily agriculture management operations and other agriculture related supply and service businesses.

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

The college has historically provided several AAS programs in various Ag areas. The college has a growing demand for graduates with skills focused on business for agricultural industry. Previous programs were not broad enough to develop a business generalist for Ag; this degree has been designed with a strong background rooted in business. In addition, the Ag Industry Advisory Board has determined that this degree is necessary, moving forward, to build upon our Ag portfolio of programs that provides graduates with varied skillsets for the extensive Ag industry in our region.

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

TVCC already has a long-standing Ag Advisory Committee. This committee has met to develop and improve the Ag programs and portfolio at TVCC. The group is scheduled to meet twice a year to continue the systematic methods of meaningful and ongoing involvement.

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

This program was specifically designed to align with workforce and economic development needs of the region. Ag Business remains at the top of the workforce sectors in Eastern Oregon.

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

TVCC has the content that allows students to obtain a 91-credit 1-Year Ag Business AAS, with enough flexibility embedded within the program to meet their individual needs (there are 9 suggested electives that help tailor their skills and proficiencies). This is a technical program that one needs to demonstrate proficiencies, in order to successfully complete.

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

TVCC has had the relevant faculty champions in place for this new degree program. Thus we have the physical space, infrastructure, instructional capability, equipment and expertise needed to launch and sustain the program.

**Assurances**

Treasure Valley 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.