

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Treasure Valley Community College, Associate of Applied Science Degree in Crop Science, within 01.1102 – Agronomy and Crop Science.

Summary:

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



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 Crop Science.

Program Summary

TVCC's Crop Science classes get you into the field - literally. Students learn techniques to improve production, planting, harvesting and sustainable farming techniques. Our classes are designed to provide the necessary skills to manage a profitable, environmentally sound farm, ranch or agricultural business. Students learn the fundamentals of sustainable agriculture, focusing on crop production with a farm business. To make sure you get real-world skills, emphasis is placed on entrepreneurial and practical field applications.

Graduates are qualified for employment in a variety of positions associated with sustainable agriculture, including horticultural and livestock operations, wholesale and retail management, nursery operations and environmental and agricultural education.

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 in crop science. First, numerous existing and former students have requested these classes and program. In addition, the Ag Industry Advisory Board has determined that Crop Science is a needed program, to build upon existing offerings and provide 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 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 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 17-credit Crop Science Technician certification that is embedded within the degree program. 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.