
Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Blue Mountain Community College, Certificate of Completion in Medical Assisting, within 51.0801 Medical/Clinical Assistant.

Summary:

Blue Mountain Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Medical Assisting. 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: CC1 in Medical Assisting.



Blue Mountain Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to a Certificate of Completion in Medical Assisting.

Program Summary

The Medical Assisting program prepares students for a career as a Medical Assistant. Courses will combine cognitive learning and practice of psychomotor skills in classroom and laboratory settings. Clinical training through externships in local outpatient clinics and physician offices will allow students to observe and practice skills gained in the classroom and laboratory in actual healthcare settings. Medical Assistants are skilled professionals who have specific training to work in a physician's office or a clinic.

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

The State of Oregon Employment Department Occupational Prioritization List of all high wage/high demand occupations lists Medical Assistants in the 96th percentile regarding demand for the position in Eastern Oregon. It is the highest ranking available. Regionally the average hourly wage is \$16.81. The Blue Mountain Community College MA program would be the only Oregon program available for more than 125 miles, the nearest options being Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles, and Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario. The advisory board comprised of areas hospitals and public health officials supports the program creation. We have garnered interest from Good Shepherd Medical Center, St. Anthony Hospital, Columbia River Health, and Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center to name a few.

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

Collaboration with Oregon Office of Primary Care, Oregon Washington Health Network, and 10 member organizations, including all major regional hospitals and county health departments in Umatilla, Morrow, and Walla Walla Counties.

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

The MA program has support from regional hospitals and health clinics to provide practicum training locations for students, in addition to interest in hiring new graduates to fill open positions. The program is also focused on recruiting under-served populations as a means of facilitating economic development.

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

The program follows The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) recommended medical assistant core education requirements created by the Medical Assisting Education Review Board to ensure the program meets desired proficiencies.

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

BMCC has the capacity to sustain the program with current full-time faculty teaching much of the core curriculum.

Assurances

Blue Mountain 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.