

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Clackamas Community College, Certificate of Completion in Wildland Fire Science, within 43.0203 Fire Science/Fire Fighting.

Summary:

Clackamas Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Wildland 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: CC1 in Wildland Fire Science.



Clackamas Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to a Certificate of Completion in Wildland Fire Science.

Program Summary

The Wildland Fire Science program provides training that can lead to seasonal employment in wildland firefighting or to the first step to a career in the forest industry or park service. There are many career tracks in the field of wildland firefighting and forestry. It's exciting work that requires fundamental survival, safety and firefighting training and skills. It is also important to be physically fit, work well in a team environment, and respond quickly and efficiently to instruction/commands.

Clackamas Community College is a certified training site recognized by the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG), the Oregon Department of Forestry, and National Forest Service. Program instructors are National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) certified and offer 15-30 years of wildland firefighting experience. Many of the courses carry NWCG certification as well as college credit.

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

Most wildland firefighting jobs are temporary and seasonal. A higher level of education is required for permanent positions with state and federal agencies. Often, the education needs to be in a related field. The Wildland fire, forestry and management courses will fulfill the requirements for these positions.

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

The Wildland Fire Management Advisory Committee was supportive and recognized the need for this level of education in both current entry level positions and to create a stronger application pool into pathway programs. This will be a standing agenda item for the Advisory Committee going forward.

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

The Wildland Fire Management program links education and training services and student supports that enable individuals to secure industry relevant certification and advance over time to higher levels of education and employment in a variety of occupations in Fire Science Management. This aligns to workforce and economic development activities in our region.

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

Students will gain important introductory knowledge, skills and abilities applicable within the Wildland Fire Management and Forestry sectors, and will earn certificates for NWCG designated courses.

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

There are no new resources-faculty, facility, equipment, staff, student services-that would be required for this program.

Assurances

Clackamas 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.