

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Rogue Community College, Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene, within 51.0602 – Dental Hygiene/Hygienist.

Summary:

Rogue Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene. 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 Dental Hygiene.



Rogue 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 Dental Hygiene.

Program Summary

This six-term program prepares students to meet requirements to become dental hygienists with expanded functions. Successful completion of the program leads to eligibility to sit for the Western Regional Exam Board (WREB). The curriculum is based in Dental Hygiene theory; students are trained in preventative procedures, periodontology therapy, pain management, dietary and health promotion, restorative treatment, and patient relations. Program students attend classes as part of a structured cohort that begins once each academic year. Students should apply early as the required mandatory orientation is scheduled several months prior to the scheduled start. If students intend to transfer to Oregon Tech's Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene program after successfully completing RCC's AAS program, transfer courses should be chosen from the list of electives where possible. See an advisor or visit www.oit.edu.

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

According to the Department of Labor Growth by Major Industry Sector Statistics, health care and social assistance careers are expected to increase by more than 10 percent by 2024. Currently the need for dental hygienists are met through training outside the Rogue Valley and the industry demand for hygienists in our area validates the need for a local training opportunity.

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

This program was developed and endorsed by members of our dental advisory committee as necessary to support community health and industry need. Representatives from local dental offices were represented in the development of program goals and outcomes. Successful completion of the courses developed will provide students with both the didactic and hands-on practical experiences needed to sit for the Western Regional Exam Board (WREB).

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

The curriculum in these courses is derived from a set of identified learning outcomes that are relevant to the discipline are based on Dental Hygiene theory; Students are trained in preventative procedures, periodontology therapy, pain management, dietary and health promotion, restorative treatment, and patient relations. This will prepare students to meet requirements to become Dental Hygienists with

expanded functions and meet industry needs. The degree aligns with the college mission to provide quality learning opportunities for students to achieve their goals and support the vitality of our community.

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

The Dental Hygiene, six-term AAS Degree prepares students for work in professional level positions in dental clinic settings. Students will learn all phases of patient care related to dental hygiene (including expanded functions) and comply with federal and state regulatory agency laws and regulations. Students will also be prepared to meet industry standard expectations upon graduation. The program includes over 700 hours of clinical experience so students experience hands on, practical application of their knowledge.

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

Development and implementation of this program is believed to be sustainable through the industry need for well-trained dental hygienists combined with local training. Due to the projected increase of employment opportunities and the ability for students to circumvent relocating in order to access training, there is a high likelihood for sustainability. Due to the nature of the program, several courses can be delivered in a hybrid format decreasing costs and also increasing the likelihood for sustainability. The dramatic support from local industry and the support of a bond to provide the resources for a fully functioning ten operatory dental clinic will make the development and implementation of this program feasible.

Assurances

Rogue 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.