

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Clackamas Community College, Associate of Applied Science Degree in Emergency Management Professional within 47.0302 – Crisis/Emergency/Disaster Management.

Summary:

Clackamas Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science Degree in Emergency Management Professional. 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 Emergency Management Professional.



Clackamas 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 Emergency Management Professional.

Program Summary

Help build a culture of preparedness and ready communities for catastrophic disasters with the Emergency Management Professional (EMP) Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degree at CCC. This program is ideal for incumbent workers looking to benchmark their experience while engaging in meaningful learning opportunities. The degree is also designed to provide the foundational skills to enter the field of homeland security and emergency management.

The EMP AAS guides students to understanding the interactions between the evolving social, built, and physical environments that are creating greater risk complexities. Through a diverse curriculum, students will identify what foundations are needed for emergency management professionals to address evolving risks.

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

Emergency Management is a growing field nationally, regionally and within the state of Oregon. This degree will support incumbent workers by connecting previous education and work experience to current trends in emergency/disaster prevention, preparedness, planning, response and recovery. There is not an existing 2-year degree program in this area of study in Oregon. We have a previous program that was successful and with this renewal we believe it will better serve the needs of students pursuing this type of education.

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

Clackamas Community College is a member of the Oregon Emergency Management Association (OEMA) and many of the instructors involved in this program are first responders and incident management team members engaged in local, regional and national responses. These connections, along with a diverse advisory committee, will help the college track current and emerging trends and keep the course and program content relevant.

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

Along with our involvement with OEMA and our advisory committee, we actively participate with other educators and institutions teaching emergency management through our involvement with the Federal Emergency Management Agencies (FEMA) Higher Education Network. This network provides an opportunity to learn best practices in this field along with current and emerging trends in emergency management education.

The recent COVID-19 crisis have shown that there is an ongoing need for emergency management professional in all economic areas.

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

Students completing this program will obtain multiple nationally recognized certificates in the areas of emergency/disaster prevention, preparedness, planning, response and recovery through FEMA. This will also include the Professional Development Series which is required by most employers. Other state and national certificates could be obtained depending on which focus area a student selects.

Additional Knowledge, skills and abilities are listed in our Program Learning Outcomes;

- demonstrate critical thinking to identify and reduce disaster risk through a proactive, anticipatory and innovative approach for guiding public policy and the application of homeland security and emergency management framework and principles;
- identify the social determinants of risk, as both the risks for and the effects of disasters are socially produced;
- demonstrate knowledge in scientific processes, geographic configurations, social-cultural issues and interdependent relationships as they pertain to emergency management;
- explain communication and facilitation modes including evolving technologies and methods for disaster risk awareness, assessment, measurement and reduction for a broad spectrum of stakeholders;
- identify civic and legal processes, ethical considerations, policies and politics important in Emergency Management; and
- develop an individual learning development plan.

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

This program will be delivered using a virtual learning modality. Student will meet with their instructor using ZOOM video conferencing during class and our learning management system Moodle will host all of the course materials. Most of the course content is open source and developed by current practitioners.

Our department director, 1 full time faculty, 1 full time administration coordinator and 1 full time advisor will support 4-6 part-time faculty. Additional support is available through our advisory committee and our local, state and regional partners by providing guest lectures, current policy interpretations, best practices and current and emerging trends in emergency/disaster management.

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 *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.