

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Portland Community College, Certificate of Completion in Deaf Cultural Studies, within 05.0211 Deaf Studies.

Summary:

Portland Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Deaf Cultural Studies. 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 Deaf Cultural Studies.



Portland Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to a Certificate of Completion in Deaf Cultural Studies.

Program Summary

The Deaf Cultural Studies certificate is a one-year program for students pursuing work with Deaf, Deaf Blind, and Hard of Hearing individuals or whose chosen field may serve these populations. This certificate provides a solid foundation for working with this underserved population by offering courses in advanced American Sign Language, linguistics, intercultural communication, and ethical decision making. This Certificate will replace the current Deaf Studies Certificate.

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

In 2016, DHS released a final report on the community-based needs assessment of Oregon's Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. The report identified a lack of laws, trainings, programs, early intervention services, and health services in Oregon for the Deaf communities. Access to community, education, job opportunities, and public services were listed as significant barriers. The report states "Impacting public attitudes is one of the most important issues that need to be addressed" (pg 75). By offering a one-certificate in Deaf Cultural Studies, PCC will be responding to state-level needs by increasing education around an underserved population. This certificate educates individuals about Deaf culture, communicating with Deaf individuals, social justice, and accessibility issues. It is the hope that by offering this certificate, we can ultimately improve the lives of Oregon's marginalized Deaf communities. No program specifically focused on Deaf Culture seems to exist in the state of Oregon. This program would complement ASL programs and other career programs. Other programs may touch on Deaf culture, but PCC's program will focus specifically on educating people around this issue.

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

The program's advisory board meets on a regular basis and provides direction and guidance on coursework, internship opportunities, and program outcomes. The certificate will be part of an annual program review wherein program faculty and staff review outcomes and completion rates on an annual basis.

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

Students will take courses in American Sign Language as well as courses in intercultural competence and ethical practices. The Deaf Cultural Studies is a one-year program for students pursuing work with Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals or whose chosen field may serve these populations. This certificate provides a solid foundation for working with this underserved population by offering courses in advanced American Sign Language, linguistics, intercultural communication, and ethical decision making.

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

Students are required to complete fieldwork as a required part of the academic work in the certificate. Students can choose from a large and wide-ranging elective list to complement the certificate and their course of study.

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

The college has committed resources to starting and maintaining this program of study.

Assurances

Portland 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.