HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION
3225 25th Street SE, Salem, OR 97302
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Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Portland Community College, Certificate of Completion in Vascular Interventional Catheterization Technology Less Than One-Year Certificate within 51.0901 Cardiovascular Technology/Technologist.

Summary:

Portland Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Vascular Interventional Catheterization Technology Less Than One-Year Certificate. 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: CCo Vascular Interventional Catheterization Technology Less Than One-Year Certificate.

Portland Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to Certificate of Completion Science in Vascular Interventional Catheterization Technology Less Than One-Year Certificate.

Program Summary

Interventional radiography is a field of medicine that uses medical imaging techniques to diagnose and treat problems in nearly every organ system. Some of these procedures are done to diagnose illnesses while others are done for treatment purposes. The concept behind interventional radiography is to diagnose and treat patients using the least invasive techniques currently available in order to minimize risk to the patient and improve health outcomes. Because these procedures have less risk, less pain and less recovery time in comparison to open surgery, use of these non-invasive therapies/treatments are rapidly expanding. These diagnostic or interventional procedures take place in a Catheterization Lab (Cath lab). In Oregon, the vast majority of Cath labs house cardiac (heart), vascular, and neuro (brain) interventional procedures. Some common procedures that involve an IR technologist include: angiography, balloon angioplasty/stent, biopsies, dialysis access and related intervention and drain insertions. Currently, the only training programs in the region for imaging technologists who want to work in a Cath Lab are for Cardiovascular Technologists, or CVT's (and none of these programs are in Oregon). CVT AAS degree programs focus only on the heart, meaning that CVTs are qualified to do cardiac procedures, but they do not have the expertise or training to perform procedures on the brain and on veins, arteries and organs throughout the body. Our proposed program in IR would provide a broader curriculum than that of CVT programs, providing our graduates with skills that would allow them to do cardiac and other procedures, making them much more marketable than a CVT.

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

Industry demand is high for trained Interventional Radiography Technologists. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median pay for these professionals, is $67,080 annually or $32.25 per hour. The typical entry-level education required is an Associate's Degree with professional credentialing and the job outlook for the next 10 years shows a projected growth of 14% - or much faster than average. The information in Burning Glass is similar. It shows a median salary for the Portland Metro Area of just over $60,000/year with a projected growth rate of 13%. Locally, all major hospitals in the area are hiring these professionals including Providence, PeaceHealth, Kaiser, Adventist, OHSU and Tuality. Of note, the PCC Radiography program has existing contracts and relationships with all of these employers. Each of these hospitals is a current clinical site for first and second year radiography students, and several of them host CT and MRI students as well. A certificate in IR would give PCC the opportunity to train students in an area the State of Oregon's Employment

Department has indicated "high priority" for the Portland metro area. Currently there are no programs in Oregon, and very few regionally.

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

   There is not an existing Advisory Committee for this subject area currently. However, several local partners have expressed an interest and/or agreed to participate in such a committee when one is formed. The interested parties so far are:

   - Dr. Donald Garbett, Interventional Radiologist at Peace Health in Springfield, Oregon
   - Dr. Ethan Korngold, Structural Heart and Cardiology - Providence Health Systems
   - Dr. Jeremy Fields, Interventional Neurology - Kaiser
   - Chris Berry, Cath Lab, Peace Health Riverbend
   - Kelly Meyers, OHSU
   - Steve Newsome, St. Alphonsus, Boise, Idaho
   - Jamie Candelaria, Billings Clinic, Billings, Montana
   - Rose Owens, Providence Newberg

   Intention is to establish an ongoing board for this discipline. They will meet regularly to review curriculum, outcomes and alignment to profession.

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

   This certificate would resemble our current programs in CT and MRI in that the curriculum would rely heavily on an existing, specific and comprehensive structured ARRT program that includes both educational and clinical requirements. For the education component, the ARRT provides specific didactic content that reflects the exam content specifications for the IR registry exam. ARRT requires that these 'structured education' activities be completed through an academic program from an institution accredited by an ARRT-recognized organization. The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) is one such national accrediting body, and the body through which the PCC Medical Imaging program is currently accredited. We therefore 'qualify' to offer this training. ARRT also provides specific clinical experience requirements that individuals must document prior to sitting for the national credentialing exam. For IR, these include 61 procedures in seven categories.

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

   ARRT provides extensive guidelines on the content and amount of both the structured education and clinical experience required to sit for an interventional post primary certification exam. They require

that the educational component reflect the exam content specifications of the discipline (in this case VIR) and that it must be an academic course from an institution accredited by an ARRT recognized institution. To meet the clinical requirement individuals must document, prior to sitting for the registry, 61 procedures in seven categories.

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) accredits the PCC Radiography program, making us eligible to deliver the post primary educational and clinical requirements needed for individuals interested in pursuing the post primary pathway to becoming an Interventional Radiologic Technologist. The plan is to develop a less than one year certificate that incorporates the required ARRT content, providing students with a structured and high quality experience that will lead to sitting for and earning national ARRT credentials.
Currently no state in the union requires state licensing or certification as an interventional radiologic technologist. However, there are certifications available through national credentialing organizations like the ARRT. Such credentials are becoming more attractive to employers since in lieu of licensing requirements, certification not only confirms your commitment to the interventional radiologic technology field, but also a commitment to the field's highest standards.

5. ***Does the community college identify and have the resources to develop, implement, and sustain the program?***
Portland Community College has assessed the needs of this program and has dedicated current and ongoing resources to support it.

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 *inter*segmental 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.