

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Columbia Gorge Community College, Certificate of Completion in Basic Construction, within 46.0415 Building Construction Technology/Technician.

Summary:

Columbia Gorge Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Basic Construction. 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: CC in Basic Construction.



Columbia Gorge Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to a Certificate of Completion in Basic Construction.

Program Summary

The Basic Construction certificate trains students in the foundational skills of the construction industry. Skills include, tools and safety, foundations, and framing.

Program student learning outcomes

Students who successfully complete this certificate will be able to:

1. Use standard terminology when identifying tools, materials and hardware associated with the construction field.
2. Demonstrate the safe and proper use and care of basic construction tools.
3. Perform fundamental construction techniques properly, including foundations and framing.
4. Apply safe work habits at all times.

Career opportunities

Students completing the 18 credit Basic Construction certificate are provided the foundational skills to secure entry-level positions in construction. These positions would assist in a variety of capacities at construction job sites, including assisting with framing tasks, site clean-up, and retrieving tools or materials.

Alignment and articulation

CGCC has worked closely with North Wasco School District, the largest district in Wasco County, to align curriculum with their existing Construction program. Students leaving the high school program are prepared with foundational skills that align with the Basic Construction certificate. Once the Basic Construction certificate is approved and in place at CGCC, high school students will have the option to earn dual credit while in high school and enter at CGCC for more advanced learning and practical applications.

How the program “fits” within a career pathway design.

CGCC’s Basic Construction certificate is designed using the career pathway model. The 33 credit Construction Technology certificate builds on the knowledge and skills gained in the 18 credit Basic Construction certificate. These certificates are a starting point for this program. We will continue to work with industry partners to build out year 2 of the program to establish an AAS degree option.

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

Current forecasts by the Oregon Employment Department indicate Construction jobs will increase by 18% in the next 8 years in the Columbia Gorge region, 35% in the central Oregon region, and 16.5% in Oregon as a whole. Outreach to area construction companies confirms the need for trained workers. The local workforce spends a lot of time training their new hires and often don't have capacity to train them in all aspects of the industry. They see the CGCC program as an avenue to train entry-level positions, skill-up current employees, and potentially produce project and site managers as the program expands to two years. There is every indication that there will be increased opportunities for construction-related jobs as the populations in the Gorge and central Oregon continue to grow.

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

Columbia Gorge Community College has support and encouragement to develop this program from North Wasco County School District and local industry partners: Curtis Homes and Crestline Construction, as well as local independent contractors.

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

North Wasco County School District has been an active partner in the development of the Basic Construction certificate and the Construction Technology certificate. They have participated in program planning meetings and provided technical input on facility options. The Dalles High School offers a Construction trades program that will allow high school students completing the high school program to seamlessly transition to CGCC's program to further advance their skills and earn postsecondary credentials.

The Basic Construction certificate is aligned and wholly contained within CGCC's Construction Technology certificate (33 credits), providing a rung in the program ladder. Students wishing to continue their education beyond the Construction Technology certificate could transfer their credits to Oregon Institute of Technology's Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Management or Operational Management. Some credits will also transfer to Oregon State University's Construction Engineering Management degree.

Students who wish to start their own business can take the state exam for Oregon Construction Contractors. If they successfully complete the exam, they can apply for their contractor's license in the state of Oregon.

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

The design of the Basic Construction certificate was completed using content suggested by local industry partners and contractors. CGCC's course outcomes guides were developed for six Basic Construction certificate courses and have been approved by CGCC's curriculum committee. Prerequisites to enter the program are reading and writing 90 and math 60 or math 98.

The Construction Technology program provides a sequential skill building program for students. Program and course outcomes are clearly identified and target the identified needs of the industry. While the courses in the program build on each other, there are minimal pre-requisites for each course, allowing students to enter the program at any point. In addition, it provides opportunity for individuals with basic construction skills or already working in the field to advance their skills in specific areas.

Program quality and design is assessed through CGCC's cyclical 5-year Program Review process. Program Review includes assessment of trends in student achievement (student learning outcomes, certificate completion, and employability), review of courses (alignment with professional and national standards, currency and relevance) as well as current labor market information and employment opportunities. Student and advisory committee feedback is integral in the review process.

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

Columbia Gorge Community College has identified the required resources to offer a successful Basic Construction certificate and has made the commitment to move forward with implementation. CGCC is constructing a facility to house the Construction Technology program, has begun receiving equipment donations and will be hiring a full-time faculty to start January 1, 2021. The college's 2020-21 adopted budget includes adequate resources for equipment and supply purchases.

Assurances

Columbia Gorge 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.