

**Docket Item:**

Community College Approval: Columbia Gorge Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology within 46.0415 Building Construction Technology/Technician.

**Summary:**

Columbia Gorge Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology. 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 Construction Technology.



**COLUMBIA GORGE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Columbia Gorge Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to an Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology.**

### **Program Summary**

Students who successfully complete the Construction Technology AAS degree will be prepared to assist contractors with responsibilities across the construction trades. Graduates will have the skills and knowledge to competitively seek employment as general carpenters with potential for accelerated advancement as project or site managers. Students will learn advanced methods in carpentry, finishes and green building. Leadership and communication are pillars of this program, training students to effectively work on a team and seek advanced positions in the field.

Learner outcomes (knowledge and skill to be acquired:

Students who successfully complete this degree will be able to:

1. Qualify for employment in the construction field.
2. Apply comprehensive construction skills to build or remodel structures.
3. Consider specialization in specific elements of the construction industry.
4. Demonstrate professionalism and produce quality work.
5. Use effective communication skills to interact with fellow crew members and supervisor.
6. Use critical thinking skills to evaluate jobsite practices.

Alignment and articulation of these knowledge and skills with secondary and other post-secondary educational opportunities:

CGCC has worked closely with North Wasco School District, the largest district in Wasco County, to align curriculum with their Construction program. CGCC is assisting with the re-establishment of that program. Students leaving the high school program will be prepared with foundational skills to transition to more advanced learning and practical applications in CGCC's program.

How the program "fits" within a career pathway design:

CGCC's Construction Technology program is designed using the career pathway model. The 94 credit AAS degree builds on the knowledge and training from the 33 credit Construction Technology certificate, which builds on the knowledge and skills gained in the 18 credit Basic Construction certificate. These stackable credentials provide students options, allowing them to stop out if they need to and then return to continue their education and skill building.

Career opportunities for students as a result of this education:

Students completing the Construction Technology AAS degree will enter the workforce with the knowledge and skills to be productive team members on a construction site and seek advancement to leadership roles.

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

The Oregon Employment Department projects job openings for construction laborers to be much larger than most occupations in Oregon through 2029, with an increase of 10.9% in Oregon and an increase of 9.3% in the Columbia Gorge. Construction manager openings are expected to increase by 12.4% in Oregon as a whole and hold steady in the Columbia Gorge with approximately 21 openings. Local workforce is seeking employees with knowledge and skills in the industry, but also with project and site manager capabilities. Leadership and communication skills are pillars of this AAS degree, training students to effectively work on a team and seek advanced positions in this field.

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

The Construction Technology program has established its initial advisory committee, with plans to grow and expand membership to include leaders and managers in the construction industry. Guidance from local employers, such as Curtis Homes and Crestline Construction, have helped design content for both the certificate and now the AAS degree. CGCC continues to work with North Wasco County School District to reestablish their construction program to serve as a feeder to CGCC's program.

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

The Columbia Gorge region continues to grow in population and adequate housing continues to be an issue. Having a trained workforce to address this shortage is imperative. The Construction Technology certificate will provide trained construction laborers and the AAS degree both project and site managers to support this growth.

Graduates of the Construction Technology AAS can continue their education and transfer their credits to Oregon Institute of Technology's Bachelor's degree in Business or Operational Management. Some credits will also transfer to Oregon State University's Construction Engineering Management degree.

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

The Construction Technology program provides a sequential skill building program for students. Beginning with an 18-credit career pathway certificate, students can progress to a 33-credit certificate

and finally the 94 credit AAS degree. Each credential builds on the next in terms of students' academic and technical knowledge and skills.

Program quality and design is assessed through CGCC's cyclical 5-year Program Review process. Program Review includes assessment of trends in student achievement, review of courses, as well as current labor market information and employment opportunities. Student 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 provided the required resources and a brand new facility in 2021-22 to offer the first year of the Construction Technology program. As development of the 2022-23 budget begins, consideration will be given to hiring an adjunct instructor to assist with teaching portions of the program. An increase in the material and supplies budget will be necessary with the addition of the second year of the program.

***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 *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.