
Docket Item: 6.2 - CONSENT ITEM: Central Oregon Community College | Community Health, CCo.

Summary:

Central Oregon Community College proposes a new Certificate of Completion in Community Health. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the certificate as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following program: Central Oregon Community College CCo in Community Health.

Recommended Motion:

Move to approve the following certificate: Central Oregon Community College CCo in Community Health.



Central Oregon Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to Certificate of Completion in Community Health.

Program Summary

The Community Health Certificate of Completion prepares students to work in the fields of public health, health care, and community-based organizations. Jobs in this field include health outreach and education, sustainable practices, peer-centered support, and case management, and client and community-based advocacy. Graduates work to reduce unequal rates of illness and death between different communities and to promote health equity or justice, prioritizing communities with the greatest health risks. The certificate is a step along the pathway to the Public Health Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer.

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

COVID-19 has exacerbated health disparities in Central Oregon, strained the health and social services system, and created a labor shortage in public health. This has caused difficulty filling public health positions, reduced the number of qualified candidates for jobs, and made it challenging to retain a qualified workforce across public health agencies. It was already strained before COVID-19, it is even more strained as it recovers from the pandemic.

This certificate will address these issues by increasing local training of public health professionals and providing options for entry level public health workforce. These trained, local workers will fill an immediate need for entry-level public health positions and will build the future public health workforce in Central Oregon. Central Oregon Community College will build upon established programs and initiatives to expand and support community health in Central Oregon.

The public health workforce is expanding and building capacity across the United States. From the Qualify Info page - Employment in this occupation in 2020 was similar to most occupations across the state. The total number of job openings (204/year) is projected to be similar to job openings for most occupations in Oregon through 2030. This occupation is expected to grow at a 15.7% rate over the next 10 years.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

June 8, 2023

Docket Item #6.2

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

To assess local needs, the program held an informational session with public health agencies, and community-based organizations and worked closely with East Cascades Works to assess needs. A community meeting was held in Spring 2022 with twenty-seven (27) attendees from the public health community. A needs assessment was completed answering questions about types of jobs, skills needed, and opportunities and those responses were used to develop the concept and focus of this program.

The program's initial work group and resulting advisory board consists of individuals from PacificSource, Oregon Health Authority, Crook County Health Department, Central Oregon Health Council, Deschutes County Public Health, Mosaic Medical, Oregon Child Development Coalition, East Cascade Works, Warm Springs Tribe, and the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance.

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

Central Oregon Community College promotes student success and community enrichment by providing quality, accessible, lifelong educational opportunities. This degree will line up with local community health needs and provides community enrichment that addresses health and well-being. The degree will support lifelong education by providing access to local OHA-approved classes and classes that support workforce

Identify strategic alignments, such as the strategic plan, academic master plan, state (HECC/CCWD) priorities, workforce initiatives, public education initiatives, etc.

This certificate will address these issues by increasing local training of public health professionals and providing options for entry-level public health workforce. These trained, local workers will fill an immediate need for entry-level public health positions and will build the future public health workforce in Central Oregon. Central Oregon Community College will build upon established programs and initiatives to expand and support community health in Central Oregon.

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

These program learning outcomes were developed in consultation with industry partners listed in Standard B and reviewed and approved by the College's Curriculum Committee, VP for Instruction, and governing Board:

PLO #1 Demonstrate knowledge of available community resources to support a person's health goals.

PLO #2 Explain the importance of understanding complex practices, values, beliefs and culturally and historically defined differences within the context of community health.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

June 8, 2023
Docket Item #6.2

PLO #3 Demonstrate entry-level proficiency in Oregon Health Authority Traditional Health Worker core competencies.

PLO #4 Explain the relationship between human behavior and health.

These program learning outcomes will be regularly assessed once the program is approved and running, with the first assessment report due in AY 24-25.

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

Internal Impacts:

Admissions and Records: It will impact options for students and will be an additional certificate choice.

Advising: This will be a new degree to promote.

Bookstore: Little impact, most of the textbooks are open education resources

Campus Services: None

College Now: None

College Relations: This will require marketing after it is established.

Financial Aid: This will be an additional certificate of completion option.

Information Technology Services: None

Library: Little impact

Policy: None

Risk Management: None

Tutoring and Testing: None

Facilities: Existing facilities are sufficient.

Technology: Existing technology is sufficient.

Equipment: Existing equipment is sufficient.

Administrative Assistant Support: Existing administrative assistant support is sufficient.

Enrollment Estimate: First year: 20; Second year: 20; Fully mature program: 40

Content expert responsible for program development: Sarah Baron has over 20 years of experience in community health, community organizing, and grant development. She will be working with COCC faculty expertise (Jenny Cruickshank, Owen Murphy, Andria Woodell) and will also work closely with the community to ensure that there is a close connection to community health needs.

Does this person have capacity to develop the program? Yes – Masters in Public Health, Doctorate and Education and Peer Support Specialist certified

Lead faculty to maintain program after fully established: Sarah Baron, MPH, Ed.D.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

June 8, 2023
Docket Item #6.2

Resources and Budget: COCC received \$383,096 from Deschutes County American Rescue Plans specifically allocated to develop a workforce pathway in public health. An additional \$10,000 was secured from PacificSource for class and degree development. A private funder has provided \$50,000 for the development of the community health pathway and an additional \$20,000 for rural health development. After this funding runs out, the program will require approximately \$7,000/year to maintain and the COCC Board has reviewed and approved this budget outlook.

Assurances

Central Oregon 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.