



April 24, 2020

Dr. John D. Gossett
President
McDowell Technical Community College
54 College Drive
Marion, NC 28752

Dear Dr. Gossett:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

Significant Departure Program

Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Emergency Medical Science

Submission date:

12/16/2019

Implementation date:

8/1/2020

Case ID:

SC008345

The 72 credit hour Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Emergency Medical Science, which is consistent with the mission of McDowell Technical Community College, is designed to train students to provide advanced emergency medical care as a paramedic. The A.A.S. program will replace the previous continuing education Paramedic program and will target individuals interested in public service. Initial enrollment is expected to be 10 students with courses delivered through a combination of face-to-face and distance learning instruction. As a rationale for the program, the College cites U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data projecting employment of emergency medical technicians and paramedics to grow 15 percent from 2016 to 2026. Administrative oversight will be provided by the Dean of Health Sciences. The program was approved by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges in October 2019.

A comprehensive list of all other programs offered by the College was included; there is one approved off-campus instructional site. The curriculum, course descriptions, and student learning outcomes were provided. Admission and graduation requirements, along with the definition of a credit hour, were noted as well. Student learning will be assessed through Scope of Practice demonstrations, exams, and a capstone course. The A.A.S. program will also be integrated into the College-wide institutional effectiveness process, which was described in detail. This process involves the generation of annual Institutional Effectiveness Plans which identify student



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learning outcomes, means of assessment, results, and use of results. In addition, each program is required to undergo a comprehensive Program Review every five years.

The Faculty Roster describes the qualifications of the one full-time faculty member who will support the Emergency Medical Science program. The faculty member has related undergraduate degrees, extensive professional experience, and a state paramedic license. He appears qualified to teach the assigned courses. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review teams who will assess the faculty as part of the institution's next SACSCOC accreditation review.

Library and learning resources appear to be adequate. The McDowell Technical Community College Learning Resource Center (LRC) houses an extensive collection of physical and electronic resources that support the emergency medical science curriculum. This collection includes books/e-books, journals, periodicals, and databases. Students may access these items in person or online from the LRC website. Additional external resources are available from the statewide NC LIVE virtual library and through interlibrary loans as part of various cooperative agreements. Instruction on library use is included in the Success In Study Skills course and is also provided by professional librarians through one-on-one consultations or Libguides. Students may receive additional assistance via telephone, email, or an after-hours chat service.

Student support services appear to be adequate and are available to all students regardless of location. Along with standard academic support services such as financial aid, student records, and admissions the College provides additional support through academic advising and personal counseling. Specialized services are available for veterans and students with disabilities. The Student Enrichment Center offers placement testing, career assessments, and peer tutoring. Students also have access to free tutoring in math and English through the Academic Resource Center. The NC Works Career Center provides information on employment opportunities and assists students with job placements.

The physical resources appear to be adequate. Instruction for the proposed Emergency Medical Science program will be conducted in the William Harold Smith Building on the College's main campus in Marion, North Carolina. The building is a 17,000 square foot facility containing faculty offices and classrooms. Instructional space is equipped with computers and audio-visual equipment. Students also have access to a computer lab located in the Academic Resource Center. Distance learning instruction will be conducted through the existing Open LMS learning management system. A 24-hour Help Desk is available to provide technical support to students and faculty by phone or live chat.



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Financial support for the program appears to be adequate. Because the previous continuing education Paramedic program will be transitioning to the new A.A.S. degree program, there will be no startup costs. Ongoing expenses will include instructional salaries, supplies, and materials. Revenues will come from student tuition, state appropriations, and county government funds. A contingency plan is in place to ensure financial stability of the program.

Policy Update

Please note that, at its meeting in June 2018, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved modification of the *Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions Policy Statement*, for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Emergency Medical Science. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Thank you for including a check for \$500 to help defray the costs of the prospectus review.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Denise Y. Young at 404-679-4501 or via email at dyoung@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/SKO:lp

cc: Mr. Ladelle Harmon, Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Denise Y. Young