

DATE: January 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Nashville State Technical Community College, Technical Certificate in Surgical Assisting

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The shortage of trained professionals in the health care industry has been well documented. The local surgical community has expressed the need for certified Surgical Assistants. Hospitals are requiring practicing First Assistants to become nationally certified. This certificate will provide a vehicle for addressing this critical need.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Upon approval

Commission staff have reviewed the program proposal according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the mission of the college. “To serve a diverse geographic service area, and provide high-quality education and training opportunities to meet the needs of the community.”

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The curriculum for the proposed technical certificate requires 29 semester hours. Additional new courses required to support the curriculum include a 12-hour clinical practicum and a 4-hour lecture-lab course. The proposed technical certificate is the next stage of training for surgical technicians. The Anatomy and Physiology courses can be transferred, should recipients of the technical certificate be interested in nursing or other areas of healthcare.

Projected Program Productivity		
Student Projections	FTE Enrollment	Graduates
Year 1	7	0
Year 2	12	10
Year 3	18	12

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: In addition to meeting the College’s general requirements, as stated in the catalog and a personal interview, applicants must have operating room experience. Students that successfully complete all requirements will be awarded the technical certificate.

1.1.20D FACULTY: The accrediting organization requires that the student/faculty ratio in the lab and the clinical instruction not exceed 12:1. To address this requirement, one additional faculty member will be needed to support the proposed certificate.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: No additional library resources are needed to support the proposed certificate.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed certificate will be housed in the Division Health and Social Sciences.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: Affiliation agreements will need to be established with local hospitals for clinical practicum placements.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT: One additional lecture room, LCD projector, and PCs will be necessary to offer this certificate.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: NSCC does not have an accredited Surgical First Assisting program. In a recent survey of students enrolled in or graduating from the Surgical Technology Certificate program at NSCC, expressed strong interests in advancing their career in surgery and enrolling in a Surgical Assisting program, if offered. As a condition for employment, hospitals require Surgical Assistants to have national certification.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: The proposed certificate is offered within the service area of NSCC and is not duplicative. Meridian Institute, an out-of-state organization, offers on-site training to local hospitals and surgery centers in the surgical First Assistant Training. This is an expensive program that has not been accredited.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: None indicated.

1.1.20L DESEGREGATION: The program will not impede the state's effort to achieve racial diversity.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The curriculum is structured according to the Association of Surgical Technologist Core Curriculum for Surgical First Assisting. The Accreditation Review Committee was consulted to develop the curriculum that insures compliance with accreditation standards and guidelines. Accreditation will be sought through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Program evaluation will be based on pass rates on certification examinations, student, alumni and employer surveys and job placement rates.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: The proposed technical certificate is designed to articulate with the Surgical Technology certificate (practicing Surgical First Assistants) and the Anatomy and Physiology courses will transfer for students entering other programs in health care.

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT (Graduate Programs) N/A

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: The proposed technical certificate will increase the quality of health care and meet the needs of the local surgical community, while fulfilling national requirements for certified Surgical First Assistants. Associated costs will be addressed through campus reallocations in the Operations and Maintenance budget, the Instructional Equipment budget and from an unfilled faculty position in English/Humanities.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1. Expenditures					
A. One – time:					
New/renovated space					
Equipment	\$5,000				
Library	\$10,000				
Consultants	\$0				
Other	\$0				
Total for One-time Expenditures	\$15,000				
B. Recurring:					
Administration					
Faculty	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000		
Staff	0	\$0	\$0		
Benefits	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000		
Equipment	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		
Library	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Travel	\$500	\$500	\$500		
Other					
Total for Recurring Expenditures	\$44,500	\$44,500	\$44,500		
TOTAL (A + B)	\$59,500	\$0	\$0		
2. Revenues					
State appropriations (new, FTE)					
*State appropriations (old)	\$21,821	\$37,224			
Tuition/Fees	\$7,446	\$12,702			
Institutional Resources					
Grants/Contracts					
Gifts					
Other (in-kind donations, etc.)					
TOTAL REVENUES	\$29,267	\$49,926			

NOTE: \$10,000 Renovation funds allocated from Operations as Maintenance budget.
\$9,000 Equipment funds allocated from Instructional Equipment budget
\$40,000 Faculty funds allocated from unfilled English/Humanities position

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first three years following approval. The review will be based on established goals contained in the proposal. A summative evaluation will be required in the third year.