

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Technology Education College

RECOMMENDATION

Technology Education College meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. Provisional authorization is recommended for the associate of applied business degree program in criminal justice and for the associate of applied science degrees in engineering/CAD and in medical assisting. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and continuing recognition from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools. Provisional authorization is also contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are due by April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

Profile: Technology Education College (TEC) is a for-profit, co-educational career college serving approximately 450 students in its undergraduate programs. The school was established in 1965 as Electronics Computer Programming Institute of Columbus but was renamed Technology Education College in 1988 to reflect its broader educational purpose. In 2002, the company now known as Kaplan Higher Education Corporation purchased TEC. TEC's mission is to serve as "an institution of higher education dedicated to providing quality programs that integrate the curriculum with professional skill development, empowering students to achieve their lifelong personal and professional goals."

Accreditation/Authorization: TEC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACC SCT) and is recognized by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS). This is the college's first request to the Chancellor and the request is in response to HB 119 of the 127th General Assembly, which requires the Chancellor's authorization for associate degree programs in proprietary colleges and schools as a condition of their students' eligibility for OIG/OCOG funds, a state needs-based financial aid program.

Program Information: TEC is seeking authorization for the following programs:

Associate of Applied Business in Criminal Justice
Associate of Applied Science in Engineering/CAD
Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting

Each program requires at least 90 quarter hours for completion and includes course work in general education, applied general education and the technical/occupational area.

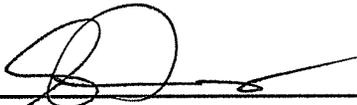
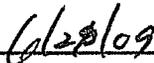
Review Results: The external review team noted the following strengths during the review: the strong institutional assessment and improvement plan; the focus on student success, including a well-planned and executed approach to improving student retention; regular use of external advisory boards; and the contractual arrangement with the University of Alabama at Huntsville library, which provided TEC students with access to Huntsville's print and electronic resources.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: assess incoming students so that those not ready for college-level work are placed in developmental courses; develop and use mechanisms to measure and improve program outcomes; improve the credentials of faculty members in the general education to meet the Chancellor's faculty standards; provide an update on the implementation of the new general education curriculum; and clarify the curriculum used in the engineering/CAD program.

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed programs, or, in the case of recommendations that could only be complied with over time, by presenting a clear plan for the implementation of the recommendations and a timeline for such.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: TEC meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for applied associate degree programs. The review team recommends provisional authorization for the associate of applied business degree program in criminal justice and for the associate of applied science degrees in engineering/CAD and in medical assisting. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from ACCSCT and continuing recognition from the SBCCS and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional accreditation if, in the Chancellor's judgment, progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with the Chancellor's standards in any area. Progress reports, reviewed at the college's expense, are due by April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed, at the School's expense, prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

End of Comment Period: June 1, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED:	
	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

mle