Clark State Community College
Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting

Executive Summary/Recommendation

This program clearly meets Regent's standards for associate degree programs. There were no serious concerns raised in this review.

Request: Clark State Community College has developed an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Assisting in response to the growing need for Medical Assistants in physician offices, ambulatory facilities, internal medicine clinics and other health care facilities in Clark County and the surrounding area. Rapid changes in the health care delivery system combined with the complex nature of today's medical care has increased the need for trained medical assistants who can perform administrative and clinical functions under of supervision of a physician or other healthcare administrator.

The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics/Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that medical assistants are one of the top ten fastest growing occupations. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Industry Employment Project Report states by 2012, Ohio will need 62,500 health care professionals to work in ambulatory facilities and other health care settings.

Trained Medical Assistant's perform both administrative and clinical functions. Their clinical training prepares them to take medical histories, conduct laboratory tests, dispose of contaminated supplies, record vital signs, change dressings using infection controls, remove sutures, prepare patients for x-rays, sterilize instruments, prepare and administer medication and instruct patients about their medications. Administratively medical assistants are trained to arrange hospital admissions, appointment schedules, prepare insurance information, maintain patient records and perform billing and bookkeeping functions.

Program Purpose/Mission: Clark State Community College currently offers several other health care programs including a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program, Registered Nurse (RN) program, a Physical Therapist Assistant program, Emergency Medical Services Assistant program and others.

The new Medical Assisting Program complements these programs and offers students interested in a healthcare career pathway another opportunity for gainful employment and advancement in Ohio's growing health care industry.

The program incorporates a One-Year Technical Certificate that will attract incumbent workers interested in advancing their current healthcare skills and knowledge needed for job retention and advancement.

Three College Tech Prep Programs located in the area indicated their support for the program and plan to add this program to their articulation agreements ensuring students a seamless transition from a Health Care College Tech Program to the Medical Assisting Program. The College is currently in discussion with the Green County Adult Career Center to develop an articulation agreement with them as well.

Clark State Community College plans to seek accreditation from the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) on behalf of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA). The organization provides academic and curriculum standards necessary for educating competent entry-level medical assistants. Graduates of the program will be encouraged to take the national certification examination and upon successful completion of the examination may use the credential "CMA" (certified medical assistant).

Enrollment: The projected enrollment for the Medical Assisting Program is 23 full time students and 14 part-time students for 2008, with an additional five full and part time students projected for 2009-2010. Additional students will be forthcoming from the College Tech Programs thereby increasing the student projection numbers.

The College is also receiving calls from individuals who have expressed an interest in enrolling in this program. Once the College begins to market the program the enrollment projections may increase even more.

Curriculum: The curriculum includes the required general education and technical courses required for this degree, a hands-on-skill learning laboratory component, and a supervised directed practice experience in the fourth quarter of the program. The development of this curriculum offers students the ability to earn a One-Year Technical Certificate after successful completion of all the courses required to take the certification examination.

During the development of the curriculum, faculty from Sinclair Community College were consulted and also served on the faculty curriculum development committee. As collaborative partners in the development of this new degree, the two institutions shared their expertise, knowledge and best practices to ensure students enrolled in the program would meet certification standards and requirements.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The Health and Human Services Academic Division of the College will provide administrative oversight for the new program. The College plans to hire a certified medical assistant with the appropriate degree credentials and experienced needed to be the Coordinator of this new program and who will also teach in the program. Additional adjunct faculty will be hired as needed to assist with the instruction of the program as the enrollment grows.

Clark State Community College opened a new building in the fall of 2007 assuring there is sufficient classroom and laboratory space available to accommodate the number of students enrolled in the College's various nursing programs and also the new medical assisting program.

The College is financially prepared to support the cost of implementing this new program.

Program Duplication: The closest two-year public institution to Clark State Community College offering a similar program is Sinclair Community College which is more than 30 miles away from the College.

The two colleges collaborated in the development of this program and Sinclair Community College related their support for the program's development. Residents in Clark County interested in Sinclair's medical assisting program would be required to pay an out-of-county tuition rate and could travel as much as 40 miles to attend classes at Sinclair Community College.

Ohio's growing need for trained skilled health care personnel supports the need and student enrollment for both of these programs.

Employment Opportunities: Graduates of the Medical Assisting Program will find employment opportunities in family and internal medicine clinics, physician's offices, urgent care centers, hospitals, pain clinics, laboratories and many others.

End of Comment Period: February 25, 2008
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved:

3/5/08

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor **Date**