

BACKGROUND

**Northwest 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: Northwest State Community College requests approval for an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Assisting.

Program Purpose/Mission: According to the United States Department of Labor, health care will continue to be one of the fastest growing industries in our economy with a projected growth of 12.8 million by the year 2008 and lists Medical Assisting as one of the fastest growing careers. Today's Medical Assistant is an integral member of the health care delivery team and is vital to maintaining office productivity and efficiency. Medical Assistants also prepare patients for examinations, procedures and treatments, record medical histories, collect and prepare specimens, perform basic laboratory tests and other related medical tasks.

In the five county region of Northwest State Community College, there are nine hospitals, numerous physicians' offices, clinics and laboratories that identified a need for at least 65 Medical Assistants in the next three to five years as a result of a survey conducted by the College's Medical Assisting Advisory Committee. Currently, in Northwest Ohio there are no Medical Assisting programs being offered to interested students. The closest programs to Northwest State Community College are located at James A. Rhodes State College, a public institution and the University of Northwestern Ohio, a private institution located in Lima, Ohio and more than 50 miles from the College. Two other private institutions, Davis Junior College and Stautzenberger College in Toledo, Ohio also offer a Medical Assisting Program and are located more than 60 miles from the College. The distance, travel time, and related transportation costs prohibit students who reside in Northwest Ohio from enrolling in these campus based programs.

Northwest State Community College developed this program in response to the need for trained Medical Assistants in Northwest Ohio and to give students interested in the health care field an opportunity to begin their career path by entering the field as a Medical Assistant.

Students successfully completing the program will be prepared to become a certified Medical Assistant through the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA). The certification exam is offered three times a year in various locations across the country.

Currently, the College is seeking accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program and the American Association of Medical Assistants. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program has scheduled their first site visit to the College in November 2007.

Enrollment: The College is projecting an enrollment of 35 full-time and 25 part-time students beginning January 2008. An increase to 50 full-time students is projected for 2008.

Curriculum: The Medical Assisting Program will be a part of the Allied Health and Public Service Division that includes programs in Nursing, Human Services, Criminal Justice and Early Childhood Education.

The program will utilize courses already developed by the College and will add the additional courses required for this specific degree. To meet the off-campus clinical site requirement the College has agreements with seven clinical agencies and more will be added as the program grows.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The Medical Assisting program will be staffed with a full-time current Master's Degree level Certified Medical Assistant serving as program Chair. The College plans to use current full time and part-time faculty to teach the technical classes as needed. To coordinate and administer the off-site clinical experiences a part-time coordinator will be utilized and is already employed by the College. The College does not plan to add any new faculty positions.

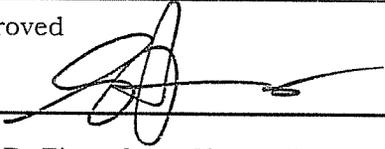
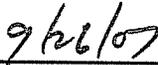
Students enrolled in the program will have access to the College's computer labs, Success Center for tutoring, campus library and OHIO LINK.

The College is financially prepared to offer this program and incur the start-up costs needed based on the projected student enrollment.

Program Duplication: Northwest State Community College contacted James A. Rhodes State College and Owens Community College to notify them of their degree proposal. Both institutions were supportive of their proposal and agree to collaborate as well as share their best practices and lessons learned. Also, the distance of over 50 miles from the College for the use of clinical sites was not seen as a duplication concern.

Employment Opportunities: Graduates of the program will find career opportunities as Medical Assistants in the region's hospitals, physicians' offices, urgent care facilities, nursing homes, clinical laboratories, oncology centers, free-standing health care facilities and others.

End of Comment Period: September 18, 2007
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	
	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date