

BACKGROUND

Sinclair Community College
Associate of Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services

Executive Summary/Recommendation

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

Request: Sinclair Community College requests approval for an Associate of Applied Science degree in Emergency Medical Services.

Program Purpose/Mission: The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) profession originated about thirty years ago and has grown to the level that emergency medical services are now an integral part of every community wanting to ensure the health and safety of its residents.

As our nation's health care industry continues to grow, the threat of natural disasters continues, terrorists' attacks remain a concern, tragic accidents and fires continue to occur Emergency Medical Services professionals are essential and vital to every community as they respond, treat, care for and attempt to save countless lives.

Sinclair Community College for a number of years has been offering Basic and Intermediate Emergency Medical Training and Paramedic courses as certificate programs to interested students and working adults. For individuals wanting to pursue a full degree the option of an Associate of Technical Study or an Associate of Individualized Study was available to them. Some individuals over the years have taken advantage of this option.

The growth of this profession is requiring emergency medical personnel to obtain additional training, a comprehensive knowledge of the delivery of patient care in and out of a hospital setting, disease prevention, ability to stabilize and monitor patients and the ability to work with diverse populations. The College is accredited by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services and scheduled for renewal this year.

From 2000 to 2005, student enrollment in EMT and paramedic training increased by 40% indicating student and adult worker interest in this profession and the need to offer a full degree program. To access the need even further, Sinclair Community College and the Emergency Medicine Department of Wright State University co-sponsored a survey of EMS providers in the Greater Miami Valley. The survey was to determine the feasibility for developing a new EMS associate degree that could be offered at both institutions. Wright State University expressed an interest in developing a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Medical Services and the

creation of a BS degree would allow students the ability to complete a 2 plus 2 agreement between the two institutions. Survey results indicated 85.7% of those responding were in support of developing a degree program but preferred that it only be developed at the associate degree level.

Enrollment: The College is projecting an enrollment of eighteen students for the first year, thirty-three students the second year, and a potential of fifty-five students in the third year.

Curriculum: The Emergency Medical Services program is structure to provide the students with two focuses of study. The first focus offers students the advance clinical skills needed for out of hospital patient care and provides the courses needed for most allied health professions.

The second focus allows students the opportunity to utilize 16 hours of fire education courses and is designed for the firefighter/paramedic who is interested in advancing their career beyond the associate degree level.

The Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services licensure as a paramedic is a prerequisite for entry into the EMS degree program.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The Emergency Medical Services program will operate under the Division of Allied Health (ALH). Sinclair Community College has the faculty it needs to teach the required general education and technical courses. The hiring of additional faculty or the need for any capital improvements will only occur if enrollment projections greatly exceed what is currently being projected.

The College has a history of cooperative relationships with the areas fire departments, hospitals and mental health facilities and plans to use these facilities to provide the clinical and field placement experiences needed for the program. Students will have hands-on technical training and learning experiences in the emergency room, intensive care unit, operating room, labor and delivery room, pediatric unit and at the various fire departments in the region.

A recent update of classrooms and laboratories included the installation of a full-sized ambulance stimulator and advance patient care stimulation for student learning and hands-on- experience.

Program Duplication: The closest college with an EMS degree to Sinclair Community College is Clark State Community College, 30 miles away.

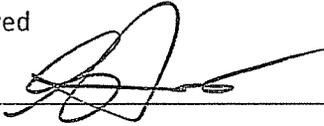
Previously, Sinclair Community College and Clark State Community College worked together to create a 1 plus 1 articulation agreement so students at Sinclair could obtain an EMS degree at Clark State after completing their required paramedic education at Sinclair. Since 1999, when the articulation agreement was developed the number of students who have utilized this option unfortunately has been none. The cost of tuition, location of the school, commute drive time, transportation costs, child care arrangements, work schedules, availability of resources, clinical placement sites and school preference are some of the possible reasons why Sinclair students have not taken advantage of the agreement since 1999.

Sinclair's program with two program options, the incorporation of EMS managerial skills, advanced level of clinical care knowledge, disaster management and the understanding of diverse populations to be served, ensures that this program is not duplicative of Clark State's program.

A member of Clark State's paramedic program served on the Sinclair's EMS Advisory Committee where their expertise, experiences, lessons shared, knowledge and cooperation was extremely valued and highly considered throughout the development process of this degree.

Employment Opportunities: Graduates of the program will be eligible for employment with local and regional fire departments, health care facilities, emergency services departments, mental health facilities, long-term care facilities, Homeland Security, disaster programs and others.

End of Comment Period: September 10, 2007
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved		
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor		Date