

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Lorain County Community College

Recommendation

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

Request: Lorain County Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Technology in response to growing need for trained technicians in northeast Ohio. The U.S. Department of Labor projects the field to grow by eighteen percent over the next ten years as the need increases for trained technicians to manage health information records and systems.

Purpose/Mission: The mission of the college is "to be an innovative leader in education, economic, community and cultural development" and serve as a "regional catalyst for change in a global environment through accessible and affordable academic and career-oriented education, lifelong learning, and community partnerships."

Enrollment: The college is projecting an enrollment of sixteen full-time and four part-time students beginning fall semester 2010, and anticipates enrollment will grow to twenty full-time and six part-time students by January 2011.

Curriculum: The program was collaboratively developed by the college's business and allied health divisions, and the curriculum is structured to provide students the skills needed to become entry-level health information technicians. Upon completion of the program, students will have the opportunity to sit for the exam to earn the Registered Health Information Technician credential. Graduates of the program will find employment opportunities in hospitals, managed care organizations, physician practices, long-term care facilities, insurance companies, and state and federal health care agencies, with starting salaries ranging from \$26,420 to \$36,500 annually.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college is financially prepared to offer the program. Existing resources are in place to support the program. A new program director, who will also teach full-time, will be hired before the college pursues specialized accreditation for the program.

Program Duplication: Currently, Cuyahoga Community College is the closest institution that offers a similar program. Both institutions enjoy a collaborative working relationship and indicated that they could serve the students in their respective regions without creating an undue burden on each institution.