

BACKGROUND

**Lakeland Community College
Associate of Applied Science in Histotechnology**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

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

Request: Lakeland Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Histotechnology. A histotechnician generally freezes and then cuts tiny tissue specimens that are mounted on a slide and stained to be visible for microscopic examination by a pathologist to identify signs of disease, illness, or malignancies in the body, as well as signs of normality or improvement.

The American Society of Clinical Pathology in 2006 mandated a change in the requirements for the certification of histotechnicians. Instead of completing a one-year hospital based certificate program, individuals interested in this profession must now complete an associate degree program with a minimum of sixty (60) semester hours. The sixty (60) semester hours must include a combination of 12 semester hours in biology and chemistry from a regionally accredited college or university.

The College developed this proposed program to meet the American Society of Clinical Pathology requirements and is currently seeking accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science. Students successfully graduating from an accredited program are eligible to take the national certification examination to become a certified Histotechnician (HT). Many times a certified Histotechnicians have the opportunity to enter employment at a higher starting salary than those without the certification.

Program Purpose/Mission: The healthcare industry is the largest employer in northeast Ohio and provides career and employment opportunities for many of the College's graduates. The College's Healthcare Pathway Program funded through the KnowledgeWorks Foundation is addressing the regions unemployed, underemployed, incumbent worker and worker advancement training needs for the healthcare industry. The opportunity to offer another healthcare program provides a new career path for individuals who are considering a healthcare career.

The regions hospitals and research laboratory facilities expressed their need for trained histotechnicians to representatives at the College. In response, the College formed a Focus Group made up of medical personnel from the areas hospitals and laboratory facilities to further assess the current and future need for histotechnicians in the region. The Focus Group developed an on-line needs assessment survey to determine the need, starting wages, educational requirements and specific technical duties and responsibilities assigned to this position. Results of the survey supported the regions need for the program, employment opportunities and career advancements in this field.

Enrollment: The College is projecting an enrollment of 15 full-time and 20 part-time students beginning January 2009. The College plans to conduct some strategic marketing efforts directed to the healthcare providers in the region, the adult career centers, College Tech Programs and the new Senior to Sophomore Program, to increase the program's enrollment yearly.

Curriculum: The program's curriculum was built from existing courses and meets the general education and technical course requirements for this specific degree program. The technical courses include clinical immunology, pathophysiology, and histology and laboratory molecular diagnostics.

Students enrolled in the program must meet specific admission requirements, which include the completion of high school algebra, chemistry and biology with a "C" grade or better. Also, all students enrolled in a nursing or allied health program or a certificate program must complete a criminal background check.

The College's clinical practicum will offer students hands-on-learning experiences and will utilize the regions hospitals, research facilities and laboratories. Many of these facilities are already being used as clinical placement sites for the nursing program and provided letters of support for expanding their placement rate to accommodate students in the proposed program.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The Histotechnology Program will be organized under the Science and Health Technologies Division and a full-time director will oversee the program. The program's director reports to the Science and Health Technologies Division Dean who has administrative responsibility for the program and reports to the Executive Vice President and Provost of the College.

The College has the capacity to accommodate additional students in its current Health Technology Building that houses the majority of the health programs and one-year certificate programs. There is ample classroom space, computer and science labs, equipment and supplies to implement this new program. Additional space is not needed at this time and the College is financially prepared to offer this program and incur the start-up costs needed based on the projected student enrollment.

Program Duplication: Within this region there is not another postsecondary institution that offers this degree program. Columbus State Community College offers a Histology Certificate and is more than thirty miles from Lakeland Community College. The College is willing to collaborate, share best practices and resources with other two-year institutions interested in the development of this program or a similar type program.