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**Agenda Item 3.02 A. 1.**

**New Program Proposal  
Associate in Health Sciences  
Major in Emergency Medical Technology  
Florence-Darlington Technical College**

**Summary**

Florence-Darlington Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology, to be implemented in Spring 2004.

The proposal was approved by the State Technical College System Board on May 27, 2003. It was submitted for Commission review on June 10, 2003. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on October 8, 2003.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates for serving as Emergency Medical Technicians in the service area of Florence-Darlington Technical College. The emphasis in the program will be on preparing students to meet the needs of the licensed hospital transport services, hospitals and the Pee Dee Regional Emergency Medical Services. The program meets new federal U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) guidelines for emergency medical technicians and has been built around a curriculum designed by representatives of the local stakeholders. The need for the program is based upon the demand for it as estimated by the local businesses which will hire its graduates.

While students can meet the new USDOT training requirements by completion of a continuing education program, the continuing education option is both expensive (approximately \$4000) and does not earn either college credit or a degree. The proposed program will provide students with both credit and a degree. In response to questions at the Advisory Committee meeting of October 8, 2003, college representatives affirmed that provision has been made in this program proposal for the granting of academic credit to students who have continuing education experience through either credit for prior life experience learning or challenge examinations.

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 67 credit hours. Of these, 24 are in general education (21 are required and one is elective) and the remaining 43 are in Emergency Medical Services. There is one other associate degree of this type with a major in Emergency Medical Technician at Greenville Technical College as well as a

certificate program in Emergency Medical Technology at Piedmont Technical College. Both are in "good" standing for enrollments, graduates, and placements.

The proposal states that within the first full year of implementation of the new program the institution will hire either two new faculty members (2 FTE), or one new faculty member (1 FTE) and several adjunct faculty members (1 FTE). A total of 15% of the time of one full-time faculty member will be devoted to the administration of the program. All faculty members will need to be credentialed at least at the associate degree level in the area of specialty.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 30 headcount ( 30 FTE) students in the Spring Semester of FY 2003-2004, when the program is first implemented. Enrollments will rise to 54 headcount (43.2 FTE) students in the second year (i.e., 2004-2005) of the program's implementation and will remain at that level in succeeding years. Estimates are based on the needs for graduates of the program as provided by local employers. If the enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

The institution will seek accreditation of the program through the Commission on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions. Accreditation is anticipated for 2007. To practice as an Emergency Medical Technician, a graduate must pass a two-part certification examination geared toward their specific training. This examination must be re-taken in each three-year period of a person's professional practice.

There are no physical plant or equipment requirements for the proposed program. Library resources necessary for the new program are estimated at \$21,885. Total new costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$72,260 in the first year and rise to \$85,316 in the second and \$84,451 in the third year of the program's implementation. In addition to the costs cited for the library enhancements, these costs over the first three years of the new program include supplies and materials and faculty. Total estimated new costs for the program during the first five years will be \$ 242,027.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2003-04	258,765	0	\$258,765	0	36,293	\$36,293
2004-05	745,243	0	\$745,243	91,120	104,652	\$195,772
2005-06	745,243	0	\$745,243	262,174	104,652	\$366,826
2006-07	745,243	0	\$745,243	262,174	104,652	\$366,826
2007-08	745,243	0	\$745,243	262,174	104,652	\$366,826

These data demonstrate that if the institution can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will still not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the fifth year of its implementation. The institution has indicated that it has the available funds to cover the costs of the program. In the discussion of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing of October 23, 2003, the vice president for instruction at Florence-Darlington Technical College added important information about the College's cost sharing with community business for this program. He stated that by partnering with the local Emergency Medical Service, the College has been able to deploy all costs for equipment and to split costs for the director's salary.

In summary, the institution will offer an Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology that will be one of two associate degrees in this field in South Carolina. This degree will allow students to obtain the skills and knowledge for working in the high-demand field of Emergency Medical Technology and to provide employment for qualified graduates in the local health-related transportation businesses of the College's service area, which have requested and helped to develop this program.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences in Emergency Medical Technology at Florence-Darlington Technical College, to be implemented in Spring 2004, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.