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Agenda Item 7.02B1
01/08/2009

January 8, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Add New Program
A.A.S., Physical Therapy Assistant
Miller-Motte Technical College, Charleston, SC

Summary

Miller-Motte Technical College (MMTC) in Charleston, SC (www.miller-motte.edu/student) requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in Physical Therapy Assistant to be implemented June 2009. The program will be delivered on-site.

MMTC operates eight campuses in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. The Charleston location of MMTC operates as a branch of the Clarksville, Tennessee campus, which is licensed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. It is a private, for-profit entity owned by Delta Educational Systems, Inc., a Virginia corporation, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta Career Colleges Corporation, a private equity firm based in San Francisco, California. The Commission has licensed the Charleston campus of MMTC since December 2000 and the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) has accredited MMTC since 1989.

The following information from the U.S. Department of Education shows student loan default rates for the MMTC system.

OPE ID	School	Type	Control	PRGMS		FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
004992	Miller-Motte Technical College 1011 Creekside Lane Lynchburg VA 24502-4353	Associate's Degree	Proprietary	Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) /Federal Direct Loan (FDL)	Default Rate %	10.0	17.0	17.7
					No. in Default	41	36	34
					No. in Repay	406	211	192

The U.S. Department of Education sanctions a school when the school's three most recent cohort default rates are 25% or higher or if a school's current default rate is greater than 40 percent. Except in the event of a successful judgment or appeal, such a school will lose FFEL, Direct Loan, and Federal Pell Grant program eligibility for the remainder of the fiscal year in which the school is notified of its sanction and for the following two fiscal years.

MMTC leases approximately 43,722 square feet of commercial space in the Rivers Park Business Center on Rivers Avenue in North Charleston. The facility houses administrative offices, medical labs, computer labs, lecture classrooms, a library, and a student lounge.

The library contains general education and basic reference resources including 1,460 circulating books, 350 non-circulating reference books, 715 circulating videos, and 40 periodicals. Through the MMTC Virtual Library students have access to 4,000 electronic textbooks, thousands of full-text articles through Gale's InfoTrac, and more than 100 web-based periodicals. The College employs a full-time campus librarian who holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science.

Each campus employs a campus director as well as directors of education, career services, financial aid, admissions, retention services, and academic programs. Once the proposed program has received the appropriate approvals, MMTC will hire a full-time director for the physical therapy assistant program. Physical therapy assistant faculty will report to the program director, who reports to the director of education.

Faculty members teaching general education courses must have a master's degree with 18 hours in the teaching discipline or must hold a master's degree with a major in the teaching discipline. Faculty members teaching core courses in the physical therapy assistant program must hold a bachelor's degree or appropriate academic preparation coupled with work experience. The program director must hold a master's degree or

higher, be licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, and have a minimum of five years of clinical experience.

Applicants must present evidence of high school graduation from an accredited high school or a General Education Development certificate, be beyond the age of compulsory high school attendance, be interviewed by a MMTC admission representative, and receive a minimum score of 15 on the Wonderlic assessment test. The assessment test may be waived for applicants who have taken the SAT or earned at least 15 hours of college credit. MMTC projects that it will enroll 83 students in the first year the program is offered.

Tuition is \$270 per credit hour for the physical therapy assistant program. Total tuition for the associate degree program is \$26,920.

The physical therapy assistant training program prepares graduates for entry-level positions as members of a physical therapy team. Under the direction and supervision of physical therapists, assistants provide part of a patient's treatment, which might involve exercises, electrical stimulation, paraffin baths, hot and cold packs, traction, and ultrasound. Physical therapy assistants record the patient's responses to treatment and report the outcome of each treatment to the physical therapist.

The curriculum for the program leading to the A.A.S. degree in Physical Therapy Assistant is shown below:

A.A.S. in Physical Therapy Assistant Curriculum	
Courses	Quarter Credit Hours
EN101 English Composition I	4
EN210 Oral Communications	4
MH205 College Algebra	4
GS110 General Psychology	4
Humanities/Fine Arts elective	4
Natural Science/Mathematics elective	4
IT101 Word Processing	4
GS101 Career Development	4
GS201 Career Management	2
Total General Education courses	34
PT100 Introduction to Physical Therapy Assisting	4
MA110 Medical Terminology	2
PT105 Documentation for Physical Therapy Assistants	2
MA111 Anatomy and Physiology I	4
MA112 Anatomy and Physiology II	4
MA113 Pathology	4
PT110 Therapeutic Procedures for Physical Therapy Assistants	4
PT120 Functional Kinesiology I for Physical Therapy Assistants	4
PT130 Functional Kinesiology II for Physical Therapy Assistants	4

PT200 Therapeutic Exercise I	4
PT210 Therapeutic Exercise II	4
PT220 Therapeutic Communication and Patient Interaction	4
PT230 Physical Therapy Assistant Clinical I	4
PT240 Physical Therapy Assistant Clinical II	4
PT250 Physical Therapy Assistant Clinical III	4
PT260 Physical Therapy Assistant Clinical IV	4
PT270 Physical Therapy Assistant Board Review	2
Total Area of Concentration courses	62
Total Curriculum hours	96

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association is the specialized accrediting agency for physical therapy assistant programs. Once the proposed program has been approved by the Commission and ACICS, MMTC will hire a full-time program director and submit an application for candidacy to CAPTE. Once candidacy status is obtained, the institution will begin to enroll students into the program. The South Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners requires that physical therapy assistants employed in South Carolina be licensed. Applicants for licensure must graduate from a Board-approved program accredited by CAPTE and pass a national certification exam.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is expected to grow by 29 percent over the 2006-16 decade, much faster than the average for all occupations. Long-term demand for physical therapist assistants and aides will continue to rise, as the number of individuals with disabilities or limited function grows.

Six state technical colleges, including Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC, offer programs leading to an associate's degree in physical therapy assisting.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission approval of an amendment to the license of Miller-Motte Technical College to offer a program leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in Physical Therapy Assistant for implementation in June 2009.