



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CHE  
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March 4, 2010

## **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., Allied Health Sciences Remington College, Mobile, AL, at its branch in Columbia**

#### **Summary**

Remington College, of Mobile, Alabama, <http://www.remingtoncollege.edu/mobile/> requests approval of an amendment to its license to offer at its branch in Columbia a program leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in Allied Health Sciences, to be implemented in April 2010. The program will be delivered on-site.

Education America, Inc., (EAI), with its administrative offices in Heathrow, Florida, is a for-profit holding company that owns 100 percent of the stock of eight Remington College companies with 21 campuses in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) accredits Remington College. The Commission initially licensed Remington College in May 2008, and it began classes at its campus in Columbia in May 2009. Currently 147 students are enrolled in medical assisting (diploma) and 84 students in medical billing and coding (diploma).

The following information from the U.S. Department of Education shows the combined student loan default rates for all campuses of Remington College.

INSTITUTION	PROGRAMS		FY2007		FY2006		FY2005	
			Instn	Sector*	Instn	Sector	Instn	Sector
Remington College - Mobile Campus 828 Downtowner Loop West Mobile AL 36609- 5593	Federal Family Educational Loans (FFEL) and Federal Direct Loans (FDL)	<b>Default Rate</b>	12.6%	12.5%	8.8%	11.1%	3.6%	9.3%
		<b>No. in Default</b>	322	33,030	210	29,976	70	22,500
		<b>No. in Repay</b>	2,548	262,640	2,480	267,869	1,910	240,545

\*2-3 year proprietary, borrowers who entered repayment during the given fiscal year as reported to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS).

The USDE sanctions a school when the school's three most recent cohort default rates are 25 percent or higher or if a school's current default rate is greater than 40 percent. Except in the event of a successful adjustment or appeal, such a school will lose Federal Family Education Loan, 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. Remington College's default rates are below this standard. According to Remington officials, the average Title IV student loan debt for graduates of Remington's programs leading to associate degrees is \$21,815.

The Remington College branch in Columbia encompasses a 33,971 square foot building in the Bush River Shopping Center at 607 Bush River Road (corner of Bush River Road and Arrowood Road). It includes faculty and staff offices, 17 classrooms, four labs, student lounge, supply store, and library.

The Columbia campus employs a full-time librarian for the Information Resource Center. The IRC includes non-circulating reference material for each area of study, current periodicals, audio/visual equipment, and computers with Internet access. Library orientation to teach new users how to access information effectively, reference support, electronic resources instruction, and workshops on résumé writing and scholarships are available to students, faculty, and staff. Students also have 24-hour access to Ebrary.com with more than 500,000 full-text books, periodicals, and articles and to Infotrac, an on-line research and learning center, with more than 20 million full-text articles from nearly 6,000 periodicals.

The Columbia campus employs a campus president; directors of admissions, student finance, career services, and education; registrar; department chairs; and support staff for those functions. The campus director reports to the regional vice president of operations, who reports to the president.

In compliance with the requirements of licensing regulations, members of Remington College-Columbia Campus faculty who teach general education courses must possess a master's degree with 18 hours in the teaching discipline or hold a master's degree with a major in the teaching discipline. Faculty members who teach professional, occupational, and technical courses that do not usually result in college transfer or in the continuation of students in senior institutions must possess appropriate academic preparation (usually a bachelor's degree) or academic preparation coupled with work experience. Exceptions to academic preparation may be made with the consent of the Commission.

In order to be admitted into the associate degree program, prospective students must have a GED or high school diploma from a regionally accredited high school or state-approved home school program. Prospective students must score 13 or higher on the Wonderlic Scholastic Level Exam (SLE) test for skills assessment. Transfer students must submit official transcripts from each college attended and may be able to transfer credit from other accredited institutions in courses of comparable content where they earned a grade of "C" or above.

Institute officials project that approximately 100 new students will enroll in the program in the first year and approximately 75 students currently enrolled in the medical assisting diploma program will re-enroll in the new program leading to the A.A.S. degree in Allied Health Sciences. Tuition includes books, supplies, and equipment and is the amount the student will be charged for attempting the minimum number of credit hours to complete the program of study. The curriculum consists of 88.5 quarter credit hours, 24 in general education, and 64.5 in the major. Tuition is \$484.75 per quarter credit hour, a total of \$42,900 for the 88.5-quarter credit hour program.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, employment for medical assistants and clinical laboratory workers will grow much faster than average and will be among the fastest growing occupations over the 2006-2016 decade. Job opportunities should be excellent, particularly for those with formal training and certification. As the health care industry expands because of technological advances in medicine and the growth and aging of the population, there will be an increased need for all health care workers. Helping to drive job growth is the increasing number of group practices, clinics, and other health care facilities which demand that support personnel, particularly medical assistants, perform both administrative and clinical duties.

The curriculum is designed to provide training in administrative, clinical, and laboratory medical assisting procedures that prepare students for a variety of positions in the healthcare setting. Graduates may pursue career opportunities as clinical medical assistants, administrative medical assistants, medical office managers, or clinical laboratory technicians.

Remington College, Columbia A.A.S., Allied Health Sciences		
Course	Course Name	Quarter Credit Hours
<b>Core</b>		
AH111	Allied Health Essentials	6.0
MAX121	Fundamentals of Medical Assisting	6.0
MAX132	Law and Ethics	4.5
MAX142	Therapeutic Communication	6.0
MAX151	Medical Laboratory Procedures	6.0
MAX172	Specialty Exams	3.0
MAX173	Advanced Techniques	4.5
MAX183	Urinalysis and Microbiology	3.0
MLA101	Microbiology	6.0
MLA111	Medical Laboratory Externship	5.0
MLA801	Laboratory Technology	6.0
MLA901	Immunology and Serology	6.0
<b>General Education</b>		
GE113	Basic Math for Allied Health	2.0
GE114	Intermediate Math for Allied Health	2.0
GE153	Social Psychology	4.0
GE154	English Composition	4.0
GE1106	Human Relations	6.0
GE1216	Speech Communication	6.0
<b>Total, A.A.S., Allied Health Sciences</b>		<b>88.5</b>

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredits associate, bachelor, and master degree programs in several disciplines, including medical assistant. The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredits degrees in clinical laboratory science/medical technology, clinical laboratory technician/medical laboratory technician, and other medical technology disciplines. Remington College does not hold and does not plan to seek specialized accreditation for the program leading to the A.A.S. degree in Allied Health Sciences at this time. Practitioner licensure or certification is not required for employment.

Other institutions in the State that offer programs leading to associate degrees in fields similar to the proposed program are:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Institution Program Name</b>
Florence-Darlington Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
Greenville Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
Midlands Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
Spartanburg Community College	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
Tri-County Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
Trident Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
York Tech	AHS	Medical Laboratory Technology
South University, Columbia	AS	Medical Assisting
Forrest Junior College, Anderson	AAS	Medical Assisting
Brown Mackie College, Greenville	AAS	Health Care Administration/Management
ECPI, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville	AAS	Health Science
Miller-Motte Technical College, Charleston and Conway	AAS	Medical Assisting
Virginia College, Greenville, Charleston, Columbia, and Spartanburg	AAS	Medical Assisting and Medical Office Management

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission an amendment to the existing license of Remington College-Columbia Campus to offer at its existing Columbia site a program leading to the A.A.S. degree in Allied Health Sciences for implementation in April 2010.