

DATE: January 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Community Colleges, Tennessee Board of Regents, Associate of Science in Teaching

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The A.S.T. is designed as a proactive step to address the shortage of teachers in Tennessee. The proposed program is intended to facilitate entry of transfer students from community colleges into university teacher education programs. A common curriculum applicable to all community colleges and acceptable to all Tennessee Board of Regents university is prescribed. The degree will fulfill an important role in the recruitment of students who wish to pursue teaching since holding the A.S.T. will assure transfer into university teacher education programs and provide a new, efficient pathway to the profession.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2006

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the mission of each institution to meet the higher education and workforce training needs of citizens in the state of Tennessee.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed curriculum requires completion of 60 semester hours. Individual campuses may need to develop a minimum number of courses, but the majority of courses currently exist within the inventory at each TBR community college.

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
General Education	41
Major Field Core	19

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: The program will follow the current requirements for admission, retention, and graduation as published in the *Undergraduate Catalog* for Community Colleges within the TBR system. To be awarded the A.S.T. degree, a student must have a cumulative 2.75 GPA, pass Praxis I, and attain a satisfactory rating on an index of suitability for the teaching profession.

Projected Program Productivity

Student Projections	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time Enrollment	Graduates
Year 1	100	50	0
Year 2	100	50	40
Year 3	125	55	50

Although the A.S.T. degree is to be implemented at all thirteen TBR community colleges, projections are based on an example of one institution. These projections assume that a full-time student enrolls in fifteen semester hours and a part-time student enrolls in six semester hours, and that the transfer provisions will result in increased enrollment that will surpass normal attrition.

1.1.20D FACULTY: No additional faculty members are needed.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: No additional library resources are required to implement the proposed program. Electronic access is available for students as needed.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be housed in the appropriate academic unit as determined by each community college.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: None indicated.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: None required.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: The A.S.T. degree is needed to transfer from community colleges into university teacher education programs, which have wide varying requirements. The A.S.T. curriculum and connected requirements provide a clear, uniform curricular path for community college students planning on teaching careers. The degree should also help to alleviate the shortage of qualified teachers in Tennessee schools, a reality that is well documented. For instance, in 2000-01, according to the State Board of Education, the state hired 5,734 teachers; but in that year, Tennessee colleges and universities graduated 3,750 students majoring in teacher education. Compounding the shortfall of graduates is an annual turnover rate of eight percent (*Master Plan for Tennessee Schools: Preparing for the 21st Century, 2003*).

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: This is an innovative and unique approach to address an education gap by having a pipeline for training teachers. There are no concerns of program duplication.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: Community Colleges will continue to collaborate with Colleges of Education at each university.

1.1.20L DESEGREGATION: The program will not impede the state's effort to achieve racial diversity.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: Professional accreditation is not available for the proposed A.S.T. SACS will be notified as required.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: The proposed program will fully articulate to any of the public universities within the TBR and in consultation with the UT System, is designed to also articulate to the UT System.

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT (Graduate Programs): N/A

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: The implementation of the A.S.T. will have a positive effect on the number of teachers produced, alleviating the shortage of teachers. Since the resources necessary to deliver the proposed program already exist on each campus, no new costs are anticipated.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first three years for each program following approval. These reviews will be based on goals established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. These goals include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation, articulation and program costs. As a result of this evaluation, if the program is found to be deficient, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. The Commission may also choose to extend this period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.