

DATE: July 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Volunteer State Community College, A.A.S. in Histotechnology

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed degree is to produce qualified technicians who are eligible for registration through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). Histotechnology is the application of theoretical knowledge and practical techniques in preparing tissue samples for microscopic examination. Currently no other degree programs exist in Tennessee to prepare registry-eligible histotechnicians.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2007

Commission staff reviewed this program proposal according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on January 29, 1997. Each relevant standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The purpose of the proposed program is in accord with the institution’s mission to provide quality innovative educational programs, strengthen community and workforce partnerships, and prepare students for successful careers.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed program requires completion of 60 credit hours distributed as follows:

<u>Curriculum Component:</u>	<u>Hours Required:</u>
General Education	16
Major Field Core	41
Electives	<u>3</u>
	60

Seven (7) new courses with a total of 22 semester hours were developed for the proposed new degree program.

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

Projected Program Productivity:

In year 1, students will take general education requirements and major field core courses. In years 2-5, one cohort will be completing general education requirements and the major field core and the second cohort will be primarily taking HST courses. Ten students per cohort is an appropriate number considering the highly specialized nature of the program and the size of the labor market.

Year	Full-time Headcount	Part-time Headcount	FTE	Graduates
1	5	0	5	0
2	15	0	15	5
3	20	0	20	7
4	20	0	20	8
5	20	0	20	10

Admission to the proposed Histotechnology program is limited and on a competitive basis. Applicants must have completed required general education courses and the major field core course requirements with a cumulative GPA of 2.0. Once admitted into the program, students complete two semesters of full-time study and are required to complete each HST course with a “C” or better.

1.1.20D FACULTY: The general education and related core will be taught by current faculty. The major HT core will be taught initially by a to-be-hired Program Director/Instructor. As the program progresses, additional faculty needs will be met through employment of adjuncts.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Expenditures of \$3,000 in year 1, \$2,000 in year 2, and \$2,000 in year 3 are projected to enhance library resources in support of the proposed program.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The Division of Allied Health will house the program.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: In support of the development of the proposed program, Vanderbilt University Medical Center will donate equipment valued at \$38,000. St. Thomas Hospital is donating classroom/laboratory space.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: Classroom and laboratory space will be provided by St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville. Much of the necessary equipment is being donated by Vanderbilt University Medical Center and is valued at approximately \$38,000.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: The proposed program is supported by recommendations from the program’s advisory committee and medical staff from both St. Thomas and Vanderbilt Medical Hospitals. A survey conducted by the American Society for Clinical Pathology in 2003 indicated a 9 percent vacancy rate in the South Central region of the United States. Similar shortages have been reported in recent publications of *Laboratory Medicine*.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DULICATION: If approved, the proposed program will be the only associate degree offered in this field by a public institution in Tennessee.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: N/A

1.1 20L ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The accrediting body for Histologic Technicians programs is the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The proposed program will apply for initial accreditation, submit a program self-study report by December, 2008, and participate in an accreditation visit no later than August, 2009.

The current Histotechnology Advisory Committee will serve in an oversight capacity for the AAS program to review the curriculum to ensure consonance with professional standards, community needs, employment opportunities, and to provide feedback to program evaluation results. The program will be reviewed by college and program staff for effectiveness in the following areas: enrollment, role and scope of the program as it related to meeting clearly defined needs, annual curriculum review, graduation rates, job placement, board passage rates, and employer satisfaction survey results.

1.1.2M ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20N EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: N/A

1.1.20O COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Expenditures			
A. One – time:			
Total for One-time			
B. Recurring:			
Administration		50,000	52,000
Benefits		22,500	23,400
Equipment		3,800	3,800
Library	3,000	2,000	2,000
Travel	1,000	1,500	1,500
Printing	1,000	500	500
Other		5,000	5,000
Total for Recurring Expenditures	5,000	85,300	88,200
TOTAL (A + B)	\$5,000	\$85,300	\$88,200
2. Revenues			
Tuition/Fees	22,000	44,000	66,000
Institutional Resources**	(17,000)	41,300	22,200
TOTAL REVENUES	\$39,000	\$85,300	\$88,200
BUDGET BALANCE	\$5,000	\$85,300	\$88,200

** Institutional reallocation will be provided from the downsizing or business career programs where enrollment has been in steady decline due to the job market shift to new technologies. Vacant positions and funds will be shifted to support the needs of the proposed new degree with no negative impact to students enrolled in the other programs.

1.1.3P POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance, and others set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. The Commission may choose to extend the period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.