WHAT ARE TECHNICAL STANDARDS
&
WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Counselor’s Division
June 23, 2011

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What are Technical Standards?

- The nonacademic standards, skills and performance requirements of an educational program
- Demanded of \textit{every student}
- Examples: physical, cognitive and behavior standards
- Necessary for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and development of professional attributes for graduation
Why Develop Technical Standards

- Proactive approach
- May prevent enrollment of a student who is not otherwise qualified to complete a program
- Prevent and/or avoid disability discrimination claims
Uses of Standards

- Student
  - make an informed decision whether to apply/declare a program based on interest and ability
  - facilitate self-reporting disabilities
  - opens door to discussing accommodations
Uses of Standards

- Faculty
  - assess or evaluate a student’s progress or lack thereof
  - effectively advising students
  - remove a student who is not otherwise qualified
Uses of Standards

- **Institution**
  - protection from “watering down” requirements of a program and discriminating against person with disabilities
What Prompted Development at ACC

- Five situations from three divisions
- Lack of a consistent college-wide procedures for addressing inadequate student performance
- Lack of a process for improving deficient areas
- Lack of a protocol to address direct threat to others
The Development Process

- Coordinator of Special Needs Role
  - attended trainings/workshops
  - researched examples of technical standards and processes
  - planned faculty/staff workshop
  - utilized resources and knowledge from disability services providers
  - developed standards/forms template
Development Process

- Coordinator of Special Needs (cont’d)
  - developed a time-line for completion
  - assisted with the review of the technical standards
  - presented to the Administrative Council for approval and implementation
Development Process

- **Faculty Role**
  - to write the technical standards for their program
  - standards are individualized for each program, not cookie cutter
  - utilized the examples as a resource tool
  - did not adopt national board or organization standards as own
  - review and revise standards
Development Process

- Technical Standard Worksheet
- Program Application
- Technical Standards Observation form
- Technical Standards Action Plan form
Implementation

• Presentation to the Administrative Council
• Technical Standard Rationale
• Revised the signature column
• Summer 2009: Dental, Nursing, Medical Assisting
• Fall 2009: Early Childhood, Animal Care, Cosmetology, MLT, Nursing Assistant, EMS, Culinary
After Implementation

- Two situations
  1. Refusal to sign standards or meet with the Coordinator of Special Needs
  2. Request for Services – to provide amplified stethoscope
What’s Next

- Begin the process with our programs in Industrial & Graphics Technologies
  - Welding & Horticulture
- Revised to the Procedural Guidelines
Thank you

Questions & Answers
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