

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CURRICULUM PROGRAM APPLICATIONS
Fast Track for Action [FTFA*]**

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the curriculum program at the listed college on the condition that equipment funds are available to the college and operating funds generated by the budget formula will permit the offering of the program without any special allocation of funds.

Gaston College
Pharmacy Technology (A45580)

Background: Program applications must meet the following criteria in order to be placed on the Fast Track For Action (FTFA) program approval request presented to the State Board of Community Colleges as part of the consent agenda:

- The curriculum program title currently exists within the System and does not require the creation of a new program title and new curriculum standard;
- The application is complete, requires no further analysis or documentation, and has the endorsement of Academic Programs;
- There are no negative impact assessments from other colleges; and
- The college does not go outside of its service area for planning purposes.

Contact(s):

Dr. Lisa Eads
Associate Vice President, Programs

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
Gaston College
Pharmacy Technology (A45580)**

Program Planning

Gaston College is seeking approval for the Pharmacy Technology (A45580) program to begin Fall, 2021. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Gaston and Lincoln Counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Gaston College on March 13, 2020. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Gaston College have certified the following:

- The proposed program will enhance the workforce of North Carolina, will provide educational and training opportunities consistent with the mission of the college, and will not duplicate the opportunities currently offered.
- They have assessed the need for the proposed program and the resources required to maintain a viable program and certify that the college can operate the proposed program efficiently and effectively within the resources available to the college.
- The college will complete a program accountability report including student success measures, enrollment trends, completion rates, and employment data three years after implementation of the program.

Program Rationale

Gaston College (GC) indicates the following:

- Gaston College participated in a program demand gap analysis where Pharmacy Tech was identified as an in-demand and high skill occupation for our service area. The top industry sectors in terms of employment in the Gaston College two-county service area include Hospitals, Nursing and Residential Care Facilities and Ambulatory Health Care Services. In addition, our local pharmacy, CVS, is currently inquiring to hire 6-8 pharmacy techs in their Gastonia locations.
- Feedback from our practice partners, Caro Mont Regional Medical Center, located in Gastonia, N.C. and Atrium Lincoln, located in Lincoln, N.C. verbalized that they are both very eager to hire Pharmacy Technology graduates from Gaston College and are supportive of this new program. One of the comments we received included "we are so excited about this new program as we are unable to find qualified Pharmacy Techs in our area". Currently Pharmacy Technicians are needed on the inpatient units of these two facilities to assist the nursing staff with the task of medication reconciliation.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data on Pharmacy Technicians projects the number of jobs to increase by 7% between 2018-2028, faster than average for all occupations. The BLS also suggests that Pharmacy Technicians with formal education or training, previous work experience, and national certification will be specifically sought after to meet these demands. The median annual wage for a Pharmacy Technician in

2020 is \$30, 410 per year. Additionally, new regulations passed for the profession mandate that “Beginning in 2020, PTCB (Pharmacy Technician Certification Board) will require initial candidates for certification to complete a pharmacy technician education program accredited by the American Society of Health –System Pharmacists and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ASHP/ACPE).” ASHP -accredited programs include didactic course work and practical experience, thereby providing well-rounded training for technicians.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs

Thirteen community colleges are approved to offer the Pharmacy Technology program. This program does contain a clinical component; therefore, all colleges were provided with a program impact assessment from Gaston College. All colleges responded with positive impact assessments in agreement and support of the program. **No negative impacts assessments were received.**

Implementation of Collaborative Plan

Not Applicable

Curriculum Design

The proposed program of study is in compliance with the State Board approved curriculum standard.

Curriculum Description as Designated on Curriculum Standard

The Pharmacy Technology Program prepares individuals to assist the pharmacist in duties that a technician can legally perform and to function within the boundaries prescribed by the pharmacist and the employment. Students will prepare prescription medications, mix intravenous solutions and other specialized medications, update patient profiles, maintain inventories, package medications in unit-dose or med-card form, and gather data used by pharmacists to monitor drug therapy. Employment opportunities include retail, hospitals, nursing homes, research laboratories, wholesale drug companies, and pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities. Graduates from the program may be eligible to take the National Certification Examination to become a certified pharmacy technician.

Contact(s):

Dr. Lori Byrd
Associate Director