

**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.

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute  
Emergency Medical Science (A45340)

**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):**

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Director of Academic Programs

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Program Application**  
**Summary Evaluation Report**  
**Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute**  
**Emergency Medical Science (A45340)**

**Program Planning:** Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&TI) is seeking approval for the Emergency Medical Science (A45340) program to begin Fall 2022. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Caldwell and Watauga counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute on March 16, 2021. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute 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:** Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute indicates the following:

- The proposed program is designed to provide EMS agencies with a well-trained and credentialed workforce. Currently credentialed Paramedics, who have not previously completed a degree, will be eligible to apply for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) based on CCC&TI's existing policy, enabling them to earn an associate degree upon completion of the required coursework. Obtaining the associate degree will also qualify these Paramedics to meet requirements recently established by the NC Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS) for Level I Instructors who teach in EMS programs in North Carolina.
- In addition, this program will create pathways for EMS associate degree graduates to obtain a bachelor's degree, if desired, through articulation agreements with institutions such as Western Carolina University and Lees-McRae College. This will also allow them to meet recently established NCOEMS requirements for Level II Instructors in the state.

- According to *O\*Net Online*, the projected growth in NC employment for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics is projected to be 8% between 2018 and 2028. According to the US Census Bureau, the US population is projected to grow by nearly 79 million people in the next four decades, with the nation's 65-and-older population projected to double by 2060. This population increase will increase the demand for EMS services and result in the need for additional Paramedic positions.
- CCC&TI has strong EMT and Paramedic training programs provided through Workforce Continuing Education that provide credentialed staff to fill many local employment needs. However, the expansion to an associate degree program will prepare students to move into important leadership positions in this field.
- This program is supported by local employers, as evidenced by letters of endorsement from the Director of Caldwell County Emergency Services and the Director of Watauga Medics, Inc.

**Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs:** Forty-three community colleges are approved to offer the Emergency Medical Science (A45340) program. This program contains a clinical component; therefore, each college was provided with a program impact assessment from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. **All colleges approved to offer the program were in agreement with the impact assessment.**

**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 the Curriculum Standard:**

*The Emergency Medical Science curriculum provides individuals with the knowledge, skills and attributes to provide advanced emergency medical care as a paramedic for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system and prepares graduates to enter the workforce.*

*Students will gain complex knowledge, competency, and experience while employing evidence-based practice under medical oversight and serve as a link from the scene into the healthcare system. Graduates of this program may be eligible to take state and/or national certification examinations.*

*Employment opportunities include providers of emergency medical services, fire departments, rescue agencies, hospital specialty areas, industry, educational and government agencies.*

**Contact(s):**

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