

**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.

Cleveland Community College
Health & Fitness Science (A45630)

James Sprunt Community College
Agriculture Education (A15330)

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. Deana Guido
Director of Academic Programs

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
Cleveland Community College
Health and Fitness Science (A45630)**

Program Planning: Cleveland Community College is seeking approval for the Health and Fitness Science (A45630) program to begin Fall 2021. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Cleveland County. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Cleveland Community College on November 10, 2020. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Cleveland Community 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: Cleveland Community College (CCC) indicates the following:

- Graduates of CCC's Health & Fitness Science program will be able to secure employment within commercial fitness clubs, YMCA's/YWCA's, wellness programs in business and industry, Parks & Recreation departments, and within other organizations implementing exercise & fitness programs. Fitness Specialist salaries in Cleveland County average \$28,800 to \$48,000 per year.
- Letters of support were received from Cleveland County Schools, Dover Foundation YMCA, Gardner-Webb University, and the Cleveland County YMCA. Both YMCA programs expressed interest in collaboration with Cleveland Community College and the potential for employment for the graduates of this program. Gardner-Webb University indicated opportunities for continuing education for the AAS Health and Fitness Science graduates.

- Student demand for health programs at CCC remains high. A Health and Fitness Science program interest survey was conducted. Forty-four students responded to the survey. Seventy-five percent, 33 students, responded that they are interested in a Health and Fitness Science program. Eight students responded that they would need more information on the program and three students responded that they were not interested in the program. Of respondents indicating interest, thirty-four percent indicated interest in job opportunities after graduation. Sixty-eight percent indicated interest in furthering their education at a four-year university.
- The projected target audience will be the Cleveland Community College athletes and others interested in future employment opportunities in health, fitness, exercise, and wellness-related fields. Local high school students will also be targeted for potential enrollment. Offering the Health and Fitness Science Program will allow students to train in services related to health, fitness, exercise, and wellness while providing a skilled workforce for area employers in related fields.
- Adding the program also provides student athletes with the opportunity to earn academic credentials which will allow them to earn life sustaining wages, should students choose not to pursue the four-year degree path. The college is currently participating in athletics, including men's and women's cross-country, baseball, and softball. The addition of the AAS in Health and Fitness program offers learning opportunities that parallel the interests of student athletes, allowing them to further hone their health and sports-related skillsets.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Three community colleges in contiguous counties are approved to offer the Health and Fitness Science program. This program does not contain a clinical component; therefore, only colleges in contiguous counties with the Health and Fitness Science Program were provided with a program impact assessment from Cleveland Community College. **The three colleges approved to offer the program in contiguous counties 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 Curriculum Standard: The Health and Fitness Science program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for employment in the fitness and exercise industry. Students will be trained in exercise science and be able to administer basic fitness tests and health risk appraisals, teach specific exercise and fitness classes and provide instruction in the proper use of exercise equipment and facilities. Graduates should qualify for employment opportunities in commercial fitness clubs,

YMCA's/YWCA's, wellness programs in business and industry, Parks & Recreation Departments and other organizations implementing exercise & fitness programs.

Contact(s):

Dr. Lori H. Byrd
Associate Director

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
James Sprunt Community College
Agriculture Education (A15330)**

Program Planning: James Sprunt Community College is seeking approval for the Agriculture Education (A15330) program to begin Fall 2021. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Duplin County. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at James Sprunt Community College on October 20, 2020. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of James Sprunt Community 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: James Sprunt Community College (JSCC) indicates the following:

- The Agriculture Education program will prepare students to become extension agents, farm management specialists, 4-H specialists, crop service representatives and to work in environmental community education programs.
- Duplin County's economy is predominantly based on agriculture and agribusiness. In conducting the 2019 Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment as part of the college's application for Federal Perkins funding, agriculture was identified as one of the top three program areas in southeastern North Carolina which includes JSCC's service area.
- According to the latest survey conducted by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Duplin County is number one in the state for total cash receipts for livestock, dairy and poultry.
- Planning for the Agriculture Education program began when several students in the Agribusiness program began showing interest in becoming Agriculture teachers. The only option for them to transfer was to transition to the Associate in Arts or Associate in

Science degree. JSCC created an Agriculture Education subcommittee to collect stakeholder information through surveys.

- Key business and industry partners were surveyed for input on the impact this degree would have in the field. Some responses included:
 - “Excellent decision from the regional economy.”
 - “I am very excited about this prospect. I believe an Ag Ed degree gives students the most opportunities in agriculture today.”
- Dr. Sandra Maddox, Dean of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at the University of Mount Olive (UMO) stated, “this potential collaborative pathway will assist us in meeting the ever-increasing need for qualified teachers in rural communities.”
- Allison Jennings, NC Future Farmers of America Eastern Region Agriculture Education Coordinator, stated, “I have worked with agriculture teachers in the eastern part of North Carolina over the past 3 years, there has been an increase of interest in students to be engaged in agriculture education after high school. However, one of the challenges many of these students face is finding post-secondary education programs that will accommodate their financial and/or personal needs.”
- Allison Jennings provided NC Agriculture Educator data. In 2019-2020, there were 72 statewide vacancies with 6 vacancies in the southwest region. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average mean salary for an Agriculture Educator is \$57,770.
- A job search for “Agriculture Educator” on ZipRecruiter revealed 26 current job openings within 25 miles of Duplin County. A similar search on Indeed.com found 7 additional, non-duplicated job openings in the same area.
- In the 2020-2021 school year, Duplin County Schools reported a 27% increase in agriculture education courses which resulted in the need for an additional full-time teacher.
- The Agriculture Education subcommittee surveyed 2785 Duplin County High School students to determine interest in Agriculture Education. The survey received 1333 responses with 727 indicating an interest in the program.
- JSCC has partnered with University of Mount Olive to develop a bilateral agreement for the Agriculture Education program. The college plans to build an Agriculture Education Career and College Promise pathway with the local school system.
- Letters of support were received from House of Raeford Farms, Smithfield Hog Production Company, and the Chairman of the Kenansville-Duplin County Chamber of Commerce.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs:

This program does not contain a clinical component; therefore, only colleges in contiguous counties with the Agriculture Education (A15330) Program were provided with a program impact assessment from James Sprunt Community College. Three colleges are approved to offer the Agriculture Education (A15330) program. An impact assessment was sent to one college in a contiguous service area. ***No negative impact responses 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 Agriculture Education curriculum is designed to provide the entrepreneurial and technical skills necessary to manage a profitable, environmentally sound, community based small farm or agricultural business. The objective is the development of a workforce knowledgeable in sustainable agriculture practices. Students will learn the fundamentals of agriculture, focusing on crop production and business.

Emphasis is placed on entrepreneurial and field training. Students will also learn the basic principles of our economic system and government policies and programs relating to agriculture.

Graduates should qualify for a variety of jobs in agricultural businesses such as equipment, feed, and agricultural supply sales; store management; farm operations; wholesale and retail produce management; nursery operations; and environmental and agricultural education.

This program is designed to provide students with agriculture and education foundation courses. Course work focuses on the foundational aspects of agriculture and education theory. Students will be introduced to classroom theory and management as well as soil, plant, and animal science. This curriculum will provide students with the knowledge and skills to be eligible to become extension agents, farm management specialists, 4-H specialists, crop service representatives, agri-tourism tour guides or work in agriculture sales, or environmental community education programs. Successful completion of the program will provide students with an opportunity to articulate their coursework to university programs in Agriculture Education.

Contact(s):

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CTE Coordinator