

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
Central Piedmont Community College
Medical Sonography (A45440)**

Program Planning: Central Piedmont Community College is seeking approval for the Medical Sonography (A45440) program to begin Fall 2021. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Mecklenburg County. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Central Piedmont Community College on July 17, 2017. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Central Piedmont 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: Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) indicates the following:

- Labor market data in the CPCC service area supports the need for a Medical Sonography degree program. Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is the area's 11th fastest growing occupation through 2025 for those with an associate degree. The 2019, U.S. News and World Report Best Jobs list ranks diagnostic medical sonographer as 4th on their list of Best Health Care Support Jobs and ranks the field as 35th out of 100 best jobs in the country based on salary, job market, and future growth of the field. (U.S. News and World Report)
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the 2019 average salary for a Charlotte area Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is \$72,670 per year, as such, this program will build pathways to viable careers for our diverse student body. Graduates of this program will be prepared to enter the ninth highest paying occupation with an associate degree as the typical entry-level educational requirement. EMSI notes that the average wage is \$31.71 an hour, which is highly competitive. (US Dept of Labor Data, 2019 <https://www.dol.gov/> ; EMSI Data www.economicmodeling.com)

- Central Piedmont has the commitment of the two large healthcare providers in our county to provide 35 additional clinical sites across the Charlotte market without displacing students in other higher education medical programs. (Letter of Support- Novant Health and Atrium Health)
- A student survey in August 2020 showed that out of 394 responding students, 94% indicated they might or would be interested in a medical sonography program. (Central Piedmont Student Survey, August 2020)
- Since beginning the planning process in Spring 2016, the population in the service area has increased by 100,000 people. Novant Health and Atrium Health have expanded to meet this need creating increased need for health care workers. (mecknc.gov)
- Between January 2019 and September 2019 there were an average of 391 Diagnostic Medical Sonographer jobs listed in NC with only 41 hires reported. This was only one hire for every seven job openings. (US Dept of Labor Data, 2019 <https://www.dol.gov/>)
- Regionally, from 2016 -2019, completions of medical sonography programs varied from 40-50 graduates while job postings during that time ranged from 90 to 374 postings in the same area. From August of 2019 to July of 2020, Mecklenburg County reported 188 postings. Labor market data predicts a 19.3 % increase in demand for medical sonographers in Mecklenburg County over the next 10 years. (Emsi Q3 2020 Data Set | www.economicmodeling.com)

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Ten community colleges are approved to offer the Medical Sonography program. This program contains a clinical component; therefore, each college was provided with a program impact assessment from Central Piedmont Community College. **Seven colleges approved to offer the program were in agreement with the impact assessment. Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute and Forsyth Technical Community College originally did not agree with the impact assessment but were supportive of the program application. One college, South Piedmont Community College, did not agree with the impact assessment. Central Piedmont and South Piedmont Community College were not able to resolve the negative 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 Medical Sonography curriculum provides knowledge and clinical skills in the application of high frequency sound waves to image internal body structures. Course work includes physics, cross-sectional anatomy, abdominal, introductory vascular, and obstetrical/gynecological sonography. Competencies are attained in identification of normal anatomy and pathological processes, use of equipment, fetal growth and development, integration of related imaging, and patient interaction skills. Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to take examinations in ultrasound physics and instrumentation and specialty examinations administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and find employment in clinics, physicians' offices, mobile services, hospitals, and educational institutions.

Contact(s):

Dr. Lori H. Byrd
Associate Director