

**ADDITION TO SPECIAL CURRICULUM PROGRAM APPLICATION LIST**

Public Safety Administration (A55xxx)

Tri-County Community College

**Request:**

The State Board of Community Colleges established the following criteria for adding programs to the Special Curriculum Program Application list\*:

- 1) There is an urgent and/or critical need for graduates from the identified program or there is a change in licensure requirements by an outside agency that requires immediate compliance.
  
- 2) The perceived system-wide impact of the program to colleges is minimal.

Tri-County Community College (T-CCC) requests approval to add the Public Safety Administration program to the list of programs that follow the Special Curriculum Program Application process.

**Background:**

The NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission created a Higher Education for Law Enforcement Committee to help address significant ongoing issues they are experiencing within the public safety community particularly the need to fill critical employment positions.

**Rationale:**

The Public Safety Administration program is essential to public safety organizations as both a professional development tool and an educational pathway leading to employment opportunities for students within the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Cluster. This is supported by the following:

- With assistance from the NCCCS, the Public Safety Administration program was developed. The program includes educational pathways that support law enforcement officer professional development opportunities and is designed to attract individuals to a variety of public safety careers beginning in high school. The Committee is very satisfied with the program and would like to see it instituted state-wide as soon as possible.
- The NC Department of Public Safety has experienced great difficulty locating and retaining correctional officers which has been exacerbated by growing inmate populations. NC DPS requires immediate and ongoing assistance filling potential cohorts of qualified employees to meet their critical needs. The corrections track contained within this program is designed to help address this issue.
- To date, the NC Community College System currently has no educational pathway in Private Protective Security, yet employers across the state continue to have issues

meeting their demand for employees. The NC DPS Private Protective Services Commission fully supports expanding opportunities for colleges to offer this educational pathway beginning with Career and College Promise high school programs.

- NC DPI has recently developed and expanded educational pathways within the public safety sector. Unfortunately, employment opportunities often fluctuate in areas such as fire protection, due to employment saturation issues, leaving those students with limited employment opportunities. Students enrolling in and completing the Public Safety Administration program will have mastered broad skillsets that allow for lateral movement into various public safety as well as municipal, county, and state managerial or administrative positions, thereby expanding their likelihood of landing a job.
- Law enforcement agencies across the state face low minority participation levels. Expanding-out Basic Law Enforcement Training into a degree program offers additional opportunities for minorities who may, in certain instances, prefer an administrative position over a patrol officer position.

T-CCC suggests that the addition of the Public Safety Administration (A55xxx) program to the Special Application list will help remediate these challenges.

Fifty-six colleges are approved to offer the Criminal Justice Technology (A55180) program and two are approved as participating colleges under an Instructional Service Agreement; sixteen are approved to offer Emergency management (A55460); and twenty are approved for Fire Protection (A55240).

**The approval of this item is contingent upon approval of the Public Safety Administration AAS program.**

*\* The Special Curriculum Program Application process and criteria were approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on September 13, 2002.*

**Contact(s):**

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