

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.

Fayetteville Technical Community College
Polysomnography (A45670)
Effective Term: Summer 2023

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):

Michelle Lair

Director of Academic Programs

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Polysomnography (A45670)**

Program Planning: Fayetteville Technical Community College is seeking approval for the Polysomnography (A45670) program to begin Summer 2023. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Cumberland County. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Fayetteville Technical Community College on August 15, 2022. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Fayetteville Technical 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: Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) indicates the following:

- The 2020-2030 job growth for this profession is projected at 11% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022). Of the 118-sleep technology related job openings in North Carolina, 73 are within 100 miles of Fayetteville (Indeed, 2022).
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, a surge in sleep disorders has been noted by researchers around the world. Two out of three Americans report negative changes in their sleep patterns, increasing the need for diagnostic testing and treatment options (American Psychological Association, 2021).
- The Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT) offers five eligibility pathways for the Registered Polysomnographic Technologist credential and three eligibility pathways for the Certified Polysomnographic Technician credential. The flexibility of these pathways allows students to obtain stackable credentials and

provides them with a variety of shift and job opportunities.

- A letter of support was received from Cape Fear Valley Health System (CFVHS). CFVHS serves the college's region and employs many of the graduates from health programs at FTCC. The Lead Polysomnographic Technician at Cape Fear Valley Health System reached out to FTCC to discuss the need for polysomnography technologists in our community. CFVHS operates 4 sleep labs throughout the region and consistently has multiple openings for polysomnographic technologists. In her letter of support, she stated, "This program would allow our community to better serve our active duty, retired military, and civilian patients" and "These skills allow graduates to begin a lucrative career that specializes in treating patients with sleep disorders right in our own area rather than having to send patients to others health systems to be treated."
- CFVHS is currently offering a \$5,000 sign-on bonus to qualified polysomnographic technologists. Surveys were sent to eight additional sleep centers in Cumberland County. All respondents indicated that they only hire BRPT credentialed technologists/technicians and consistently receive a low number of applicants when filling vacant positions.
- The College conducted a survey of current students. Of the 946 survey responses received, 538 (57%) replied they would be interested in obtaining a degree in Polysomnography at FTCC.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Five community colleges are approved to offer the Polysomnography program. This program contains a clinical component; therefore, each college was provided with a program impact assessment from Fayetteville Technical Community College. Five colleges approved to offer the program are in agreement with the impact assessment. **No negative impact assessments 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 Polysomnography curriculum prepares individuals, working in conjunction with a physician, to perform and interpret sleep studies and to provide comprehensive clinical evaluations that are required for the diagnosis of sleep related disorders. Students should acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to perform sleep studies, including recording and interpreting events observed during sleep.*

Treatment of sleep related disorders and patient education focused on healthy sleep habits will also be discussed. Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to apply to take the examination offered by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists. Employment opportunities may be found in hospitals and freestanding sleep centers.

Contact(s):

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