

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CURRICULUM PROGRAM APPLICATION
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 these programs without any special allocation of funds.

Guilford Technical Community College
Health Information Technology (A45360)

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:

Ms. Jennifer Frazelle
Director

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
Guilford Technical Community College
Health Information Technology (A45360)**

Program Planning: Guilford Technical Community College is seeking approval for the Health Information Technology (A45360) program to begin Fall 2017. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Guilford County. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Guilford Technical Community College on October 20, 2016. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Guilford 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: Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) indicates the following:

- According to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, *the job outlook for the employment of medical records and health information technicians (HIT) in North Carolina is expected to increase from 5,160 in 2014 to 6,200 in 2024 (twenty percent). This occupation is expected to average about 220 opening each year during this period.*
- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of HITs is projected to grow fifteen percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics associates the HIT faster growth rate to several factors: 1.) *An aging population will require more medical services, and HITs will be needed to organize and manage the older generations' health information data.* 2.) *The number of individuals who have access to health insurance is expected to continue to increase because of federal health insurance reform.* 3.) *Additional records, coupled with widespread use of electronic health records (EHRs) by all types of health care providers, will lead to an increased need for technicians.*

- According to the April-June Economic Modeling Report, in 2013 the twelve county Triad region had 992 HIT jobs and it is projected they will have 1,171 in 2025 (increase by eighteen percent). Currently, only one community college provides the curriculum in the area. The typical career path for HITs includes Medical and Health Services Management. Regional trends suggest an 8.6 percent growth in jobs for Health Services Managers, a position with the median earnings of \$45.66 an hour.
- The Director of Acute Care Coding at Novant Health stated they would provide remote internship opportunities for the students. By providing remote opportunities for the HIT students any class size could be accommodated in the coding internship.
- GTCC received emails of support for clinical internships from the Practice Administrator at Greensboro Dermatology Association and from Canopy Partners.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Twelve community colleges are approved to offer the Health Information Technology program. This program contains a clinical component; therefore, each college was provided with a program impact assessment from Guilford Technical Community College. Initially, Davidson County Community College and Edgecombe Community College did not concur with the impact assessment. This issue has been resolved. **All colleges approved to offer the program are 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 Information Technology curriculum provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to process, analyze, abstract, compile, maintain, manage, and report health information. Students will supervise departmental functions; classify, code, and index diagnoses and procedures; coordinate information for cost control, quality management, statistics, marketing, and planning; monitor governmental and non-governmental standards; facilitate research; and design system controls to monitor patient information security. Graduates of this program may be eligible to write the national certification examination to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT). Employment opportunities include hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, health insurance organizations, outpatient clinics, physicians' offices, hospice, and mental health facilities.

Contact Person:

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