

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Curriculum Program Application
Robeson Community College
Medical Sonography (A45440)

Program Planning

Robeson Community College is seeking approval for the Medical Sonography (A45440) program to begin Fall, 2022. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Robeson County. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Robeson Community College on November 8, 2021. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Robeson 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

Robeson Community College (RCC) indicates the following:

- The President and CEO of UNC Health Southeastern shared the hardship being felt throughout Southeastern NC in hiring medical sonographers. She appealed to Robeson Community College to offer this academic program. Stakeholders expressed interest in local graduates who will stay in the Southeastern region of the state.
- According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) employment of medical sonographers is projected to grow 19 percent from 2020 to 2030. Employment in 2020 was 75,900 and the anticipated employment in 2030 is 90,300. The projected growth is contributed to by the large baby boom population that will need diagnosis of medical conditions.
- According to the BLS the average wage for medical sonographers is \$75,920 in May 2020. Salary in the Robeson County area is \$50,960 to \$62,400 per year as reported by local employers.

- Regional facilities report hardships in filling vacancies with many facilities requiring the services of contract medical sonographers.
- Letters of support have been received from UNC Health Southeastern, Cape Fear Valley – Hoke Hospital, Cape Fear Valley Bladen County Hospital, Columbus Regional Hospital, McLeod health and the Imaging Manager at Southeastern Radiology Associates.
- A survey of local employers showed 43 open positions in the region.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs

Eleven community colleges are approved to offer the Medical Sonography program. This program does contain a clinical component; therefore, all colleges were provided with a program impact assessment from Robeson Community College. Seven colleges responded with positive impact assessments in agreement and support of the program. Four colleges responded with no but were still in support of the approval of the program. Their concerns include limitation in number of clinical sites for students. RCC provided letters of support from all proposed clinical agencies indicating no impact on colleges with current clinical placements. South Piedmont Community College maintains that current programs meet the needs of the state in the number of medical sonography graduates. **No Negative Impact Assessments 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 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 Byrd
Associate Director