

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Program Application**  
**Summary Evaluation Report**  
**Fayetteville Technical Community College**  
**Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate) (C45xxx)**

**Program Planning**

Fayetteville Technical Community College is seeking approval for the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate) (C45xxx) program to begin Fall 2018. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Cumberland County in addition to Moore and Robeson counties. 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 March 20, 2017. 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:

- Local Ophthalmologists have expressed the need for the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (OSA) program. OSAs will have the needed credentials to be able to scrub and assist during ophthalmic surgical procedures. Currently, this role is being performed by surgical technologists. However, many surgical technologists do not wish to specialize in the field of Ophthalmology.
- According to the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) in March 2016 there were 689 OSAs in the United States.

- In December 2014, PayScale.com reported ophthalmic surgical assistants annually earned between \$30,677 to \$57,746.
- FTCC surveyed Cape Fear Eye Associates, Carolina Vision Center, and the Eye Surgery Center of the Carolinas regarding the proposed program. The three employers were supportive of the program and indicated a need for OSA at their agencies. They also indicated that they had twenty-three current employees that would be interested in completing the OSA program.
- A local Ophthalmologist wrote: *We are in full support of a dedicated Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant training program to help fill the need in Cumberland County and surrounding areas. As the largest practice in Cumberland County, we operate at the two-main outpatient surgical facilities in Fayetteville: Highsmith Rainey Specialty Hospital and Fayetteville Ambulatory Surgery Center.*
- FTCC plans to offer the didactic portion of the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate) program online with evening laboratory classes.

#### **Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs**

This program would be new to the community college system. Four colleges are currently approved to offer the Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (Diploma) (D45510) program. An impact assessment was sent to the colleges currently approved to offer the Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (Diploma) (D45510) program. **No negative impact responses were received.**

#### **Implementation of Collaborative Plan**

Not Applicable

#### **Curriculum Design**

The proposed program of study is in compliance with the proposed curriculum standard.

#### **Contact(s):**

Ms. Renee Batts  
Associate Director

# PROPOSED CURRICULUM STANDARD

*Effective Term*  
Fall 2018  
[2018\*03]

Curriculum Program Title	<b>Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate)</b>	Program Code	<b>C45XXX</b>
Concentration	<b>(not applicable)</b>	CIP Code	<b>51.0909</b>

## ***Curriculum Description***

This curriculum is designed to prepare qualified Ophthalmic Personnel with the educational preparation necessary to assume the role of the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant.

Students will apply theoretical knowledge to the care of ophthalmic surgical patients and develop the skills necessary to prepare supplies, equipment, and instruments; maintain aseptic conditions; prepare patients for ophthalmic surgery; and assist Ophthalmologists during surgery,

Graduates may be eligible to apply for the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant national certification exam. Employment opportunities include hospitals, clinics, and educational institutions.

*Individuals entering the certificate curriculum must currently be employed as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA).*

## ***Curriculum Requirements\****

*[for associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs in accordance with 1D SBCCC 400.97 (3)]*

- I. General Education.** Degree programs must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours including at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. Degree programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of communications. Diploma programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of general education; 3 semester hours must be in communications. General education is optional in certificate programs.
- II. Major Hours.** AAS, diploma, and certificate programs must include courses which offer specific job knowledge and skills. Work-based learning may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit. *(See second page for additional information.)*
- III. Other Required Hours.** A college may include courses to meet graduation or local employer requirements in a certificate, diploma, or associate in applied science program. These curriculum courses shall be selected from the Combined Course Library and must be approved by the System Office prior to implementation. Restricted, unique, or free elective courses may not be included as other required hours.

	<b>AAS</b>	<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
Minimum General Education Hours	15	6	0
Minimum Major Hours	49	30	12
Other Required Hours	0-7	0-4	0-1
<b>Total Semester Hours Credit in Program</b>	<b>64-76</b>	<b>36-48</b>	<b>12-18</b>

*\*Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic use of computers.*

**Proposed****Major Hours**

[ref. 1D SBCCC 400.97 (3)]

- A. Core.** The subject/course core is comprised of subject areas and/or specific courses which are required for each curriculum program. A diploma program offered under an approved AAS program standard or a certificate which is the highest credential level awarded under an approved AAS program standard must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit derived from the subject/course core of the AAS program.
- B. Concentration (if applicable).** A concentration of study must include a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit from required subjects and/or courses. The majority of the course credit hours are unique to the concentration. The required subjects and/or courses that make up the concentration of study are in addition to the required subject/course core.
- C. Other Major Hours.** Other major hours must be selected from prefixes listed on the curriculum standard. A maximum of 9 semester hours of credit may be selected from any prefix listed, with the exception of prefixes listed in the core or concentration. Work-based learning may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit.

**Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate) (C45XXX)**

	<b>AAS</b>	<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
<b>Minimum Major Hours Required</b>	<b>49 SHC</b>	<b>30 SHC</b>	<b>12 SHC</b>
<b>A. CORE</b>			<b>13 SHC</b>
<b>Required Courses:</b> OPH 151 Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 2 SHC OSA 101 Intro to Ophthalmic Surg Asst 3 SHC OSA 102 Ophthalmic Skills & Procedures 7 SHC WBL 111 Worked-Based Learning I 1 SHC			
<b>B. CONCENTRATION (if applicable)</b>			
<b>C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS</b> <i>To be selected from the following prefixes:</i>  <i>BIO, CIS, HEA, MED, OPH and OSA</i>  <i>Up to two semester hour credits may be selected from ACA.</i>			

Approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on \_\_\_\_\_.

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant Courses**

**OSA 101 Intro to Ophthalmic Surg Asst**

Class: 3      Lab: 0      Clinical: 0      Credit: 3

Prerequisites:    None

Corequisites:    OPH 151 Ocular Anatomy and Physiology

This course is designed to introduce the primary responsibilities of an Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant. Emphasis is placed on the operative environment, professional roles, and moral/legal/ethical responsibilities. Upon completion, students should be able to apply theoretical knowledge of course topics to the operative environment.

**OSA 102 Ophthalmic Skills & Practices**

Class: 5      Lab: 6      Clinical: 0      Credit: 7

Prerequisites:    OSA 101 Intro to Ophthalmic Surg Asst

Corequisites:    None

This course introduces students to ophthalmic surgical procedures and minor surgery. Emphasis is placed on basic aseptic technique, surgical set-ups, gowning, and gloving, ophthalmic surgical instruments, and essential steps in common ophthalmic surgical procedures. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the principles and practice of aseptic technique, sterile attire, basic ophthalmic case preparation, and other relevant skills.

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**New Curriculum Prefix -**  
**Tiered Funding Formula Recommendations**

**Request:** The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to assign the following new curriculum prefix to the North Carolina Community College System Tiered Funding Formula:

**Tier 1B - OSA – Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant**

Rationale: The OSA curriculum prefix is in the area of health care. Individuals enrolled in OSA courses must be employed as Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA). The OMA curriculum course prefix for Ophthalmic Medical Assistant is a Tier 1B classification.

**Background:** On August 15, 2014, the State Board of Community Colleges adopted the 2014-2015 State Aid Allocations and Budget Policies, which included the implementation of a four-tiered funding model. To implement the Tiered Funding Forming Model, all existing curriculum and continuing education course prefixes were assigned to one of four funding levels as defined below:

**Tier 1A:** Includes curriculum budget FTE in health care and technical education courses that train North Carolinians for immediate employment in priority occupations that have documented skills gaps and pay higher wages. This tier also includes FTE in a limited number of continuing education courses that train students for the exact same third-party certification as curriculum courses in Tier 1A.

**Tier 1B:** Includes curriculum budget FTE in other high cost areas of health care, technical education, lab-based science, and college-level math courses. With the implementation of Closing the Skills Gap, Tier 1B also includes FTE in short-term, workforce continuing education courses that help prepare students for jobs in priority occupations and lead to competency-based industry credentials.

**Tier 2:** Includes

- a) all other curriculum budget FTE,
- b) all Basic Skills budget FTE, and
- c) budget FTE associated with other continuing education courses that are scheduled for 96 hours or more and are mapped to a third-party credential, certification, or industry-designed curriculum.

**Tier 3:** Includes all other continuing education budget FTE. This weighted allocation model is designed to provide a funding differential between each tier.

Tier 1A is funded at a level equal to 30% higher than Tier 2, while Tier 1B is funded at a level that is 15% higher than Tier 2. Tier 3 is funded at a rate that is 15% less than Tier 2.

**Contact(s):**

Ms. Renee Batts  
Associate Director