

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Additions To Special Curriculum Program Application List**  
Construction Technologies  
North Carolina Community College System Office

**Request:**

The North Carolina Community College System Office requests that the following curriculum program titles be added to the Special Application list:

- Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Technology (A35100) (35 approved colleges)
- Building Construction Technology (A35140) (8 approved colleges)
- Carpentry (Diploma)(D35180) (14 approved colleges)
- Construction Management Technology (A35190) (7 approved colleges)
- Electrical Systems Technology (A35130) (39 approved colleges)
- Masonry (Diploma) (D35280) (2 approved colleges)
- Plumbing (Diploma) (D35300) (7 approved colleges)
- Geomatics Technology (Surveying) (A40420) (9 approved colleges)

*Welding Technology (A50420) is currently available through the Special Application process and fifty-five colleges are approved to offer the program. Welders are also in demand in construction and construction-related industries.*

**Strategic Plan Reference(s):**

Theme: Economic and Workforce Impact

Goal 3: Ensure the educational pipeline prepares a workforce possessing the interest, knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the needs of employers, now and into the future.

- Objective 3.1.1. Identify and engage employers and relevant sources of data to determine high-demand occupations, program demand within the current labor market, and expected occupational earnings.
- Objective 3.2.2. Articulate pathways for educational and professional growth within key industries through employer engagement.

**Background:**

*The State Board delegates to the President of the North Carolina Community College System the authority to grant a college the approval to award the associate degree, diploma, or certificate for program titles that have been approved for this delegation by the State Board of Community Colleges based upon a widespread immediate need for the job training and minimal impact upon other colleges. (1D SBCCC 400.6 (a)(4))*

The Special Application process is an abbreviated program application process which requires that the college submit the following items for staff's review and endorsement prior to the President's approval of the application:

- 1) Local Certification (accompanied by a copy of the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting(s) where the proposed program was discussed and approved)
- 2) Proposed Program of Study
- 3) Impact Assessment Form(s) from colleges approved to offer the same or similar health science program which has a clinical component and

- 4) Three Year Accountability Report (must be submitted three years after program implementation)

**Rationale:**

During several Council of Association for Engagement meetings held over the past several months, construction company and association representatives voiced their frustration over inability to fulfill employment needs which has resulted in delays in projects, loss production, loss revenues, and dissatisfied customers. They formally sought out assistance from the NCCCS to help mitigate these issues. Addition of construction-related program titles to the Special Application List will allow colleges to more quickly and easily establish curriculum programs in the needed program areas.

Construction programs are essential to North Carolina's economy and provide diverse educational pathways leading to excellent employment opportunities for students across broad construction industries. This is supported by the following:

- North Carolina's population continues its upward growth, recently passing the 10M mark. U.S. Census data suggests positive population growth through 2035, thereby requiring new construction to house the growing population and additional businesses to be constructed to support an expanding economy.
- Construction companies have experienced great difficulty locating and retaining qualified individuals to support their industry. The Department of Labor projected the following demand for additional employees in North Carolina within the Architecture and Construction Career Cluster for 2014-24 as follows:

4,990	Construction Laborers
4,470	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers
4,410	Carpenters
2,480	Electricians
1,970	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
1,550	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers
1,520	Construction Managers
1,470	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators
1,360	Painters, Construction and Maintenance
1,330	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
1,120	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers

- Most of the jobs listed above fall under "bright outlook" careers by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.
- Individuals find employment within the construction industry with different levels of skills which may be provided through various pathways (continuing education, college and career readiness, basic skills plus, work-based learning, and curriculum certificates, diplomas and associate degrees). These various academic award levels may be supplemented with specific, industry-recognized credentials.
- Construction is also well suited for Registered Apprenticeship which is expanding in North Carolina and requires related academic instruction.

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