



CENTRAL OREGON
community college

Committee RECOMMENDATION FORM



Academic Affairs



Institutional Support



Student Affairs



College Affairs

Recommendation:

The Academic Affairs committee is recommending the implementation of a new Nursing Assistant certificate.

Rationale:

For many students, certification as a nursing assistant is a launching point to a higher-level career in health care. Several nursing programs, radiology programs and physician's assistant programs in Oregon and in Washington award points in their selection process, for clinical experience gained during a Nursing Assistant class. In addition, ESL students should be able to navigate this program successfully and the hope is to create more diversity in the nursing assistant pool with this short certificate program.

The Oregon Employment Department forecasts a need for nearly 58,000 additional health care workers in the state by 2018. Forty-six percent of the projected job openings are to replace those permanently leaving the occupations' labor pool. Three of the state's top ten sectors projected to add the most jobs are in the health care industry: ambulatory health care, hospitals, and nursing and residential care.

Employment projections do not reflect the difficulty employers face in filling current job openings. A 2009 statewide vacancy survey by the Oregon Employment Department found that despite the recession, Oregon's health care and social assistance industry had far more vacancies (5,744) than any other industry in the state. Of the 457 job openings for nursing assistants, 10% had been vacant more than 60 days. The gap between the work that needs to be done and the number of available workers is a vast and growing concern. St. Charles in Bend currently has 40 vacancies for CNA2 positions which they have been unable to fill. According to the Oregon Health Authority Office for Oregon Health Policy & Research [2010] one of the most straightforward ways to find needed healthcare workers is to train health care professionals, where they live, to assure both the rural and urban demand is met.


The implementation of a new Nursing Assistant certificate will assist in getting certified nursing assistants into the local workforce. In addition, it would allow COCC to offer nursing assistant classes that are eligible for financial aid.

History:

A nursing assistant certification was a requirement for application to the COCC nursing program until 2006. In 2006 the requirement was changed to certification as a nursing assistant or completion of the COCC nursing assistant program. In 2014 the nursing assistant requirement for application to the nursing program was dropped. This caused the nursing assistant class to lose financial aid eligibility. Currently the nursing assistant class is being offered as a non-credit class at COCC. As a non-credit class it may be in danger of being dropped. It can be difficult for students to pay out of pocket for a class that is not financial aid eligible.

Timeline for Implementation:

The new Nursing Assistant certificate would be implemented Fall 2016.

Submitted by:  /s/ Chair, Academic Affairs Date: 2/22/16

Action taken by the President: Approved Denied Tabled

Comments:

 /s/ President, COCC Date: 2/25/16