

March 23, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Dixie State University – Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology

Issue

Dixie State University (DSU) requests approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology effective Fall Semester, 2016. The proposed program was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees November 6, 2015.

Background

Dixie State University currently offers a Certificate of Completion in Surgical Technology. Accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), which accredits DSU's certificate program, call for surgical technology programs to offer a minimum of an associate's degree by August 1, 2021. Dixie State University is working ahead of this deadline to ensure its program will be in compliance with this standard.

Because of this accreditation standard, the existing certificate program in Surgical Technology is no longer needed. It is anticipated that a separate proposal to discontinue the Certificate of Completion in Surgical Technology will be submitted by DSU in the near future.

Surgical technologists work with surgical teams to deliver patient care before, during, and after surgery. They apply and maintain principles of sterile technique and safety. They ensure that surgical instruments are ready and available for surgeons and they ensure that supplies, equipment, and medications are available when needed. They also anticipate the needs of surgeons by analyzing the progress of surgical procedures.

There are three other CAHEEP-accredited surgical technology programs in the state located in Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties. Dixie State University offers the only surgical technology program in Southern Utah.

The Occupational Explorer web tool provided by the Utah State Department of Workforce Services projects the Surgical Technologists occupational category (SOC Code 29-2055) in Utah to have 50 annual openings with median annual earnings of \$36,186. Dixie State University anticipates 10 graduates per year from its program.

Policy Issues

The proposed program has been developed through established institutional procedures and Board of Regents policy. Chief academic officers as well as faculty in related departments from the Utah System of Higher Education institutions have reviewed the proposal and have provided input. There are no additional policy issues that need to be addressed relative to approval of the program.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board of Regents approve the Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/BKC
Attachment

**Program Description – Full Template
Dixie State University
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology**

Section I: The Request

Dixie State University (DSU) requests approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Surgical Technology effective Fall Semester, 2016.

Section II: Program Description

Complete Program Description

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals and are an integral part of surgical teams. Their primary role is to work with the surgical team to deliver safe patient care and to perform appropriate responsibilities before, during, and after surgery. Specifically, surgical technologists apply and maintain the principles of sterile technique and safety in the operating room, set-up and pass surgical instruments, supplies, equipment, and medications for various surgical procedures, and anticipate surgeons' needs by analyzing progress of surgical procedures.

Purpose of Degree

Dixie State University wishes to offer an AAS degree in surgical technology to aid in recruiting degree-seeking students for its program, to remain competitive with other programs in the region, and to meet the projected Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accreditation minimum requirement for the associate degree.

It is anticipated that approval of the AAS degree in surgical technology will result in the following outcomes:

1. Recruitment of program applicants from a broader population of students who will have a stronger foundation in general education and are better prepared for the rigors of the current curriculum.
2. Further establish Dixie State University as one of the leaders in surgical technology education in the region.
3. Demonstrate Dixie State University's ability to respond proactively to curriculum standards that reflect the increasing complexity of surgical patient care and the resulting need for a more highly educated workforce.

Institutional Readiness

The existing administrative structure at Dixie State University currently supports the certificate of completion and is fully capable of adapting to the AAS degree in surgical technology. The School of Health Sciences at DSU currently supports several other health science AAS degree programs so there is no need to develop new organizational structures. This proposed program should have no significant impact on the delivery of undergraduate or lower-division education.

Departmental Faculty

Department Faculty Category	Department Faculty Headcount – Prior to Program Implementation	Faculty Additions to Support Program	Department Faculty Headcount at Full Program Implementation
With Doctoral Degrees (Including MFA and other terminal degrees, as specified by the institution)			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured			
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
With Master's Degrees			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured			
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
With Bachelor's Degrees			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured	1		1
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured		1	1
Other			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured			
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured	2		2
Total Headcount Faculty in the Department			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured	1		1
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured	2	1	3
Total Department Faculty FTE (As reported in the most recent A-1/S-11 Institutional Cost Study for "prior to program implementation" and using the A-1/S-11 Cost Study Definition for the projected "at full program implementation.")	1.2	.5	1.7

Staff

Additional staff positions will not be necessary to support the program.

Library and Information Resources

The library currently has the information resources required to support the existing accredited surgical technology program. Routine update of information resources is expected.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the current certificate program is competitive because the program has limited enrollment. The program admissions committee reviews all applications and scores each application based on applicant GPA, score on the health occupations aptitude test, two personal references, personal letter, personal interview, and previous health care work experience. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher prior to program entry.

Student Advisement

Advising would shift from the current technical certificate advisor to the health sciences advisor.

Justification for Graduation Standards and Number of Credits

Graduation standards are aligned with existing AAS degree programs. Graduates of the proposed program must complete the University's minimum required general education component for an AAS degree and the surgical technology core component while maintaining a 2.0 or higher GPA. The program can be completed within 63 credits.

External Review and Accreditation

The proposed program was introduced to the Surgical Technology Program Advisory Committee at its December 2014 meeting. The advisory committee reviewed and discussed a draft proposal for the AAS degree and recommended that it be developed for approval.

The existing surgical technology program at DSU has been reviewed by the Accreditation Council for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARCSTSA), and upon recommendation from this body has received accreditation by CAAHEP. There will be no additional accreditation costs required to move to an AAS degree. The approval of the AAS degree in surgical technology requires notification to ARCSTSA.

Projected Program Enrollment and Graduates; Projected Departmental Faculty/Students

Data Category	Current – Prior to New Program Implementation	Projected Year 1	Projected Year 2	Projected Year 3	Projected Year 4	Projected Year 5
Data for Proposed Program						
Number of Graduates in Proposed Program	X	10	10	10	10	10
Total # of Declared Majors in Proposed Program	X	10	10	10	10	10
Departmental Data – For All Programs Within the Department						
Total Department Faculty FTE (as reported in Faculty	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7

table above)						
Total Department Student FTE (Based on Fall Third Week)	10	10	10	10	10	10
Student FTE per Faculty FTE (ratio of Total Department Faculty FTE and Total Department Student FTE above)	10:1.2	10:1.7	10:1.7	10:1.7	10:1.7	10:1.7
Program accreditation-required ratio of Student FTE/Faculty FTE, if applicable: (Provide ratio here: no more than 10 to 1_in lab___)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Expansion of Existing Program

The proposed program is an expansion of the existing certificate of completion in surgical technology.

Section III: Need

Program Need

The program is being expanded to an AAS degree in order to meet future CAAHEP accreditation standards. The most recent update to the CAAHEP Standards for Surgical Technology indicates the projected minimum requirement under Standard I. A.: "Projected for August 1, 2021, all sponsoring institutions should award a minimum of an Associate's Degree at the completion of the program."

Labor Market Demand

The institution reported that the existing certificate program in surgical technology has had an average placement rate of over 90% for the past four years. The Occupational Explorer web tool provided by the Utah State Department of Workforce Services projects the Surgical Technologists occupational category (SOC Code 29-2055) in Utah to have 50 annual openings with median annual earnings of \$36,186. Dixie State University anticipates 10 graduates per year from its program.

The local hospital (Dixie Regional Medical Center) has indicated the intent to hire eight surgical technologists in the next few months and is actively recruiting from the current class of ten students. It is anticipated that market demand change will increase, not decrease, over the next seven to ten years due to the aging population.

Student Demand

A survey of current students (n = 10) was conducted in February, 2015. Results indicated that 100% of responding students would have preferred to take the AAS degree in Surgical Technology if it had been available. Additionally, 100% of students surveyed indicated that they would be willing to take additional general education courses after graduation to earn the AAS degree in Surgical Technology.

Similar Programs

There are five other surgical technology programs currently offered in Utah, three of which are accredited by CAAHEP. All of these programs are located in the northern part of the state. Salt Lake Community College offers a certificate of completion in surgical technology. Davis Applied Technical College offers a certificate of completion. Two for-profit institutions, Ameritech College and Everest College, offer certificates of completion but both colleges have recently voluntarily withdrawn their CAAHEP accreditation status for surgical technology. A third for-profit institution, Stevens-Henager College in Ogden, offers the Associate of Occupational Science in Surgical Technology.

Collaboration with and Impact on Other USHE Institutions

This new degree program is not anticipated to impact the SLCC surgical technology program because these two programs do not typically compete for student applicants or clinical placements.

Benefits

Development of this program proactively converts a certificate program to an associate degree before the requirement becomes mandatory. Additionally, DSU will benefit by having the ability to better prepare graduates for entry into an increasingly complex health care career field. It is anticipated that this program will enhance DSU's reputation in surgical technology education.

Consistency with Institutional Mission

The Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology is consistent with and appropriate to the current role and mission of DSU as stated in DSU's current mission statement. The program supports all three core themes: Culture of Learning; Culture of Values; and Culture of Community. The program will continue to promote a culture of learning that prepares knowledgeable, competent students who achieve their educational goals. The AAS degree will provide an academic award that more accurately reflects the level of learning expected of professional surgical technologists. The degree program will continue to invest in DSU's culture of values and of community by expanding opportunities for exploration of healthcare ethics and by strengthening partnerships with local providers of surgical patient care.

Section IV: Program and Student Assessment

Program Assessment

The surgical technology program has adopted the following required minimum goals as required by CAAHEP:

The goal of the Dixie State University Surgical Technology Program is to prepare competent entry-level surgical technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

The measures that will be used to assess the program's effectiveness are the established CAAHEP benchmarks for key outcome indicators. These required outcomes are:

- program retention rate at 80% or higher
- outcomes assessment exam (CST Board exam) pass rate of 70% or higher
- graduate placement rate of 80% or higher
- employer survey return rate of 50% or higher with a satisfaction rate of 85% or higher
- graduate survey return rate of 50% or higher with a satisfaction rate of 85% or higher.

This data is documented and reported annually by filing the required Annual Accreditation Report. The outcome measures are trended over a three to five year period and reviewed annually by the Program Advisory Committee. The Program Advisory Committee makes recommendations and program adjustments are made accordingly to ensure that goals are being met. The five-year outcome trends are also reported as part of the University's program review process.

Expected Standards of Performance

The program has developed five program learning outcomes/competencies. These outcomes are:

PLO 1: Knowledge (Cognitive)

DSU-ST graduates will be able to apply fundamental theoretical knowledge in the practice of surgical technology.

PLO 2: Knowledge (Cognitive)

DSU-ST graduates will be able to acquire and evaluate emerging surgical knowledge.

PLO 3: Skill (Psychomotor)

DSU-ST graduates will be able to perform the roles and duties of the surgical technologist at entry-level for employment.

PLO 4: Values (Affective)

DSU-ST graduates will be able to demonstrate professional behaviors expected of surgical technologists.

PLO 5: Values (Affective)

DSU-ST graduates will be able to demonstrate the effective use of reason and good judgment in surgical patient care situations.

These outcomes were chosen to represent key aspects of the three required domains of learning as specified by CAAHEP accreditation standards. Formative and summative assessment measures that will be used to demonstrate student learning include class preparation evaluations, periodic quizzes and skill assessments, summative lab evaluations, capstone presentations, and both daily and summative clinical evaluations.

Section V: Finance

Department Budget

5-Year Budget Projection							
Departmental Data	Current Departmental Budget – Prior to New Program Implementation	Departmental Budget					
		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
		Addition to Budget	Total Budget	Addition to Budget	Total Budget	Addition to Budget	Total Budget
Personnel Expense							
Salaries and Wages	85160	22000	107160	0	107160	0	107160
Benefits	22628	1760	24338	0	24338	0	24338
Total Personnel Expense	\$107788	\$23760	\$131548	\$	\$131548	\$	\$131548
Non-Personnel Expense							
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Expense	7823	0	7823	0	7823	0	7823
Total Non-personnel Expense	7823	0	7823	0	7823	0	7823
Total Expense (Personnel + Current)	\$115661	\$23760	\$139371	\$0	\$139371	\$0	\$139371
Departmental Funding							
Appropriated Fund	97576	23760	121336	0	121336	0	121336
Other:							
Special Legislative Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants and Contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Fees/Differential Tuition	18035	0	18035	0	18035	0	18035
Total Revenue	\$115661	\$23760	\$139371	\$0	\$139371	\$0	\$139371
Difference							
Revenue - Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Departmental Instructional Cost/Student Credit Hour* <i>(as reported in institutional Cost Study for "current" and using the same Cost Study</i>	\$325	\$	\$325	\$	\$325	\$	\$325

Definition for "projected")							
* Projected Instructional Cost/Student Credit Hour data contained in this chart are to be used in the Third-Year Follow-Up Report and Cyclical Reviews required by R411.							

Funding Sources

The existing program budget is sufficient to support the proposed program.

Reallocation

It is not anticipated that a reallocation of funds will be necessary.

Impact on Existing Budgets

It is not anticipated that the proposed program will impact existing budgets.

Section VI: Program Curriculum

All Program Courses (with New Courses in Bold)

Course Prefix and Number	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1010A or ENGL 1010D	Introduction to Writing	3-4
ENGL 2010	Intermediate Writing	3
MATH 1030 or MATH 1040/1040A or MATH 1050	Quantitative Reasoning or Introduction to Statistics (Honors) or College Algebra/Pre-Calculus	3-4
HLOC1000	Medical Terminology	2
PSY 1010 or PSY 1010A or PSY1100 or FCS1500	General Psychology (Honors) or Human Development through the Lifespan or Human Development Lifespan	3
COM 2110	Interpersonal communication	3
BIOL 2320/BIOL 2325	Human Anatomy/Lab	5
BIOL 2420/BIOL 2425	Human Physiology/Lab	4
SURG 1050	Surgical Technology Theory	3
SURG 1055	Surgical Technology Lab I	2
SURG 1060	Surgical Technology Clinical I	4
(new course)	Surgical Sciences	3
(new course)	Introduction to Surgical Technology	2
(new course)	Surgical Pharmacology	2
(new course)	Surgical Synthesis	1
SURG 2050	Surgical Procedures	7
SURG 2055	Surgical Technology Lab II	1
SURG 2060	Surgical Technology Clinical II	7
	Sub-Total	58
Elective Courses		
Electives	As selected with advisor	5
	Sub-Total	5
Track/Options (if applicable)	N/A	
	Sub-Total	

Course Prefix and Number	Title	Credit Hours
	Total Number of Credits	63

Program Schedule

Fall semester First year

ENGL 1010 Introduction to Writing or alternative 3-4 credits

MATH 1030 Quantitative Reasoning or alternative 3-4 credits

HLOC 1000 Medical Terminology 2 credits

BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy/Lab 5 credits

Elective 3 credits

Spring semester First year

ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3 credits

PSY 1010 General Psychology or alternative 3 credits

COM 2110 Interpersonal communication 3 credits

BIOL 2420/2425 Human Physiology/Lab 4 credits

Elective 2 credits

Fall semester Second year

SURG 1050 Surgical Technology Theory 3 credits

SURG 1055 Surgical Technology Lab I 2 credits

SURG 1060 Surgical Technology Clinical I 4 credits

SURG xxxx Surgical Sciences 3 credits

SURG xxxx Introduction to Surgical Technology 2 credits

SURG xxxx Surgical Pharmacology 2 credits

Spring semester Second year

SURG 2050 Surgical Procedures 7credits

SURG 2055 Surgical Technology Lab II 1 credit

SURG 2060 Surgical Technology Clinical II 7 credits

SURG xxxx Surgical Synthesis 1 credit

Section VII: Faculty

The proposed AAS degree program will utilize the current certificate program faculty, all of whom meet the minimum CAAHEP accreditation qualifications to teach in the AAS degree program. Program Director and Instructor is Katherine Snyder, CST, FAST, BS. Program adjunct faculty members are Wayne Beck, CST/CSFA and Nicole Jorgensen, CST. The proposed additional .5 part time faculty member has not yet been hired.