



March 13, 2020

Dr. Scott Ralls
President
Wake Technical Community College
9101 Fayetteville Road
Raleigh, NC 27603-5696

Dear Dr. Ralls:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

Significant Departure Program

Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Medical Sonography

Submission date:

12/1/2019

Implementation date:

8/3/2020

Case ID:

SC008330

Wake Technical Community College (Wake Tech) plans to implement a new Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Medical Sonography. The new program is related to several A.A.S. degree and certificate programs in the technical healthcare field currently offered at Wake Tech: Radiography, Healthcare Simulation Technology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Mammography, and Computed Tomography. The new program supports the mission of Wake Technical Community College *to improve and enrich lives by meeting the lifelong education, training, and workforce development needs of the communities it serves*. The program will also address the immediate workforce needs in the healthcare field, particularly in the institution's service area.

The target audience for the program is those persons interested in obtaining the training for a career in medical sonography. They will be trained in the knowledge and clinical skills to use high frequency sound waves to image internal body structures. The program can be completed in two years (five semesters) and will be ongoing with an estimated 20 students a year. The program will be delivered in the traditional and online format (for some general education courses) and offered at the Perry Health Science campus. Development and approval for the program followed the established faculty and administrative processes, and the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) approved the program on January 17, 2020. Based on available resources and related programs currently offered, Wake Tech believes it is well positioned to offer a new program in Medical Sonography.

The degree program requires the completion of 73 credit hours. In addition to the core courses in medical sonography, students will be required to take courses in basic anatomy and physiology, quantitative



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literacy, and general education (15 credit hours). The curriculum includes 26 credit hours in clinical education. Graduates of the program will qualify to pursue an certification in Sonography from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (if they have prior imaging credentials) and/or take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) exam. A course schedule and course descriptions were provided for the curriculum. The curriculum has four students learning outcomes, each with several subordinate goals. Assessment for the program will follow the established process at the institution. Wake Tech has an open admissions policy, and graduation requirements were provided. The College follows the standard federal definition for the awarding of the credit hour. Administrative oversight for the program will be provided by the Department Head of Medical Sonography (when employed) and the Provost of the Health Science Division.

The original Faculty Roster Form describes the qualifications of seven full-time faculty members teaching general education courses in the program: English, anatomy and physiology, psychology, critical thinking, ethics, and quantitative literacy. All appear to be qualified to teach the coursework assigned. The Faculty Roster Form and prospectus also identify three potential candidates for employment to teach in the program, with proposed starting dates of July 1, 2020. All three potential employees described in the prospectus appear to be qualified to teach in the program.

SACSCOC requested the following additional information on February 2, 2020; the institution responded on February 26, 2020:

Please provide a Faculty Roster Form describing courses assigned and the qualifications of the faculty member(s) hired to implement the Medical Sonography program as soon as that person(s) is employed.

Your response provides a Faculty Roster Form describing the qualifications of a consultant employed to provide oversight and development of the degree program. She may also be employed as a full-time faculty member for the program. She holds the B.S. in Biology and the Certificate in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. She holds American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT) certification and is certified in Sonography and Vascular Sonography. She also has many years of experience as an ultrasound supervisor and sonographer. She appears to be qualified to teach the coursework assigned.

Library and learning resources appear to be adequate for the program. Standard library resources include adequate library staff, print and electronic materials, computer equipment, instructional services, and library consortia agreements. While Wake Tech has six libraries at various off-campus instructional sites, the primary library for the new program will be the one on the Perry Health Science campus. Lists of the discipline-specific books in print, electronic databases, and research guides for the sonography program were provided.

Student support services also appear to be adequate. Along with standard academic support services, for example, financial aid, advisement, student records, admissions, and so on, other support provided to students includes disability services, veterans services, technology support, mentoring, career counseling,



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wellness counseling, and an Individualized Learning Center (ILC), which provides tutoring in writing, study skills, math, computer science, and biology.

Physical resources and financial support appear adequate for new program in medical sonography. As noted above, the program will be offered on the Perry Health Science campus which is adjacent to the Wake Medical Center. The campus offers a wide range of non-credit and credit programs in the healthcare field. The campus has five buildings, with square footage of approximately 167,000 square feet. The facilities currently offer 41 classrooms, 30 laboratories, nine study rooms, six computer labs, and 124 offices (detailed description of each building provided). An itemized equipment and supply budget list of the equipment being purchased for the program was attached. Because of the large budget item of new equipment for the first year (\$395,000), expenditure will exceed revenues. The revenue for the second year is expected to exceed expenditures by approximately \$75,000.

Evaluation and assessment at Wake Tech falls within the Effectiveness and Innovation Division, which includes the College Initiatives and Assessment Department, and the Institutional Effectiveness, Accreditation and Research Department. Annual assessment includes North Carolina system-wide performance measures, climate surveys, educational program outcomes (student learning outcomes), and program reviews that are conducted on a five-year cycle. Educational programs are evaluated on a two-year cycle, with data collection in year one and action plans based on results in year two. Along with student learning outcomes, operational outcomes are evaluated (FTE generation, retention rates, graduation rates, certification pass rates, and so on). The assessment matrix for the new program is in place. Documentation for assessment is recorded in Taskstream.

Policy Change

At its meeting in June 2018, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved modification of the *Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions* for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Medical Sonography. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Larry L. Earvin at 404-679-4501 or via email at learvin@sacscoc.org.

Thank you for including a check for \$500 with the original submission.



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Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/LCS:lp

cc: Dr. John B. Boone, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Accreditation, and Research
Dr. Larry L. Earvin