



REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

STARK STATE COLLEGE

Associate of Applied Science in Ophthalmic Technology

Request:

Stark State College requests approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Ophthalmic Technology.

Background:

Stark State College, located in North Canton Ohio, is a public college with an enrollment of over 14,000 students. The college offers associate degrees and certificate programs. Stark State College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission until its next scheduled review in 2019.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The ophthalmic technology program was developed in response to regional ophthalmologists who expressed their need to the College for certified ophthalmic assistants and technicians. The College plans to pursue accreditation for the program from the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs (CoA-OMP). The College conducted a needs assessment of Ophthalmology offices in Cleveland, Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron and Canton areas and indicated an overwhelming need for trained/qualified ophthalmic assistants and technicians across Ohio. Stark State College will be the first college in Ohio to offer this program. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for credentialing examinations as Certified Ophthalmic Assistants or Ophthalmic Technicians.

The college is projecting an enrollment of 12 full-time students and eight part-time students beginning fall 2016, and anticipates enrollment will grow in the next two to three years.

Faculty and Resources:

The college is financially prepared to offer the program. Existing faculty and resources are in place to begin the program. Additional faculty will be hired to accommodate program growth.

Recommendation:

The program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for associate degree programs. No concerns were raised during the review.

End of Comment Period: August 25, 2015 at 4:30pm
No comments received, recommend approval

RECOMMENDATION

The Vice Chancellor has verified that this institution has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.



8/25/15

Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Date

APPROVAL



John Carey, Chancellor

8/25/15

Date

etc