

**Tentative Agenda Items for
February 4, 2005 AHECB Meeting**

Southeast Arkansas College

Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care Technology

Program Summary

Southeast Arkansas College, Jefferson Regional Medical Center, and the Area Health Education Center have collaborated to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care Technology to meet the growing local and state need. In 2002, an Associate Degree became a requirement for entry into the field of Respiratory Care. Southeast Arkansas College is delighted to be able to fill a void in southeast Arkansas by offering this program.

Respiratory care practitioners (RCP's) are licensed professionals in the State of Arkansas. The majority of the RCP's work within the hospital setting; however, opportunities are increasing in home health, clinics, and physicians' offices. Therapists evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing and other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists, practicing under a physician's direction, assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care therapeutic treatments and diagnostic procedures.

Respiratory therapists must learn a wide range of skills to perform their duties effectively. They must be able to interview patients and perform a cardiopulmonary focused exam. Therapists must then be able to recommend appropriate diagnostic tests to the ordering physician and must often perform the tests that are being recommended. Once a diagnosis is made, the therapist must be able to perform all modalities of respiratory therapy, so that they can appropriately treat the patient. The therapist must be able to act as a patient advocate if therapy does not work for them or if there is a therapy the patient may be able to do more effectively. Respiratory therapists are expected to initiate, stabilize, and sustain a patient on mechanical ventilation. To do this the therapist must be able to interpret arterial blood gas results, ventilator graphics, and patient work of breathing. The therapist must then know what steps to take to correct any problems that are encountered.

Respiratory therapists treat patients ranging in age from pre-term newborn with stiff, underdeveloped lungs to geriatric patients with chronic lung disease. Therapists provide temporary relief to those with asthma, emphysema, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, as well as provide emergency care to those who are victims of stroke, heart attack, drowning, shock, or trauma.

Respiratory therapists perform a number of chest physical therapy (CPT) modalities. These include an array of methods from clapping on the chest with the hand to administering internal vibration via a machine powered by piped in gas (oxygen or air) at 50 pounds per square inch. CPT is employed to move thick and sticky secretions out of the airway. Therapists also administer drugs by aerosol – liquid medications that are broken into small particles to form a mist -utilizing gas (oxygen or air) or by meter dose inhaler (MDI) to deliver the medication to the airway to be inhaled into the lungs. Therapists are responsible for teaching the patient how to administer these drugs to themselves or to family members. Therapists often work outside of the hospital environment. They may take care of patients on ventilators at home; in this case the therapist may be on call to take care of problems that arise with the patient's breathing.

This program will prepare students to perform the duties of the Respiratory Therapist at the entry-level. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care

entry-level exam which leads to the Certified Respiratory Therapists certification. This is the entry level for licensure in the State of Arkansas. Existing SEARK College programs which support the Respiratory Care Technology Program are: Emergency Medical Technology Paramedic Program, LPN Program, LPN/LPTN to RN Program, and Radiologic Technology Program.

University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Associate of Applied Science in Workforce Leadership

Program Summary

The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith requests approval of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a new Associate of Applied Science degree in Workforce Leadership. Workforce Leadership is an existing program offered through the Center for Business and Professional Development in the College of Business. The program currently includes a Certificate of Proficiency and a Technical Certificate.

The Workforce Leadership program is designed to provide manufacturing managers and supervisors with the leadership skills they need to remain competitive in global markets. Emphasis is placed on the principles and tools of quality, computer information and skills, management skills, interpersonal and team communication skills, and world-class manufacturing techniques.

This program is distinct from other manufacturing related campus programs because of its stepped progression through Certificate of Proficiency, Technical Certificate, and the proposed Associate of Applied Science degree. The stepped progression is valuable to the non-traditional students who experience rapid career change and growth. Skills in the Technical Certificate program build on the skills introduced in the Certificate of Proficiency. The skills addressed by the Associate of Applied Science degree will further build on the skills developed at the Technical Certificate level.

The program supports the mission of UA Fort Smith to “raise the higher education achievement level of the residents of the western Arkansas service area” by providing an educational opportunity for non-traditional students who are less likely to pursue higher education. The program also supports the vision of the College of Business to “be recognized for its applied approach to management education, research, and services.”

Workforce Leadership students are non-traditional students whose employers pay for their enrollment in the program. In many cases the supporting company will provide promotions, pay raises, or other incentives for students who complete a Certificate of Proficiency or Technical Certificate. We anticipate that students who complete the Associate of Applied Science degree will gain additional advancement opportunities and may even be motivated to continue to the baccalaureate level.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Master of Imaging Sciences

Program Summary

The proposed MIS program will build on the existing base of practicing radiologic technologists to help address the acute national shortages of qualified radiologists (who are physicians) and the increasing burden on radiologists in Arkansas. Radiologic technologists typically assist the radiologists in performing a wide variety of procedures on patients as part of their clinical practice. The MIS program is designed to meet the expanding need for imaging services as new procedures are developed and as imaging procedures are utilized more extensively in the aging populations of Arkansas and the nation. In response to the growing demand for advanced imaging practitioners, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) has collaborated with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) for the development of appropriate educational models and certification examinations. Graduates of the MIS program will be able to perform a wider range of specific procedures than current radiologic technologists based on these educational models and national certification examination requirements.

The 22-month MIS curriculum will use a “competency-based autonomy model” where responsibilities and functions will be defined by clinical competencies integrated with physician interaction and supervision. Education standards delineated in national advanced practice models will be incorporated through a combination of classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction and utilization of distributed learning technology for instruction. The MIS program will be designed to accommodate multiple educational tracks as the demand for advanced practitioners in specific modalities emerge (e.g., radiology; nuclear medicine; diagnostic medical sonography; fusion imaging, such as positron emission tomography/computed tomography—PET/CT). Core courses will address educational needs for advanced practice across the imaging disciplines, and specific program tracks will focus on specialized areas of imaging expertise.

UAMS and the College of Health Related Professions will provide the classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction in the delivery of the curriculum. The Master of Imaging Sciences (MIS) program will be offered through the Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences. No other similar programs are currently offered in Arkansas. Should the need arise, and if the required resources can be made available, the UAMS may, in the future, seek approval to offer this program through one or more of its Area Health Education Centers (AHEC’s).

The first track proposed for this new degree program will be to prepare the Radiologist Assistant (R.A.) for advanced practice in radiology. This track of the MIS program will be housed in the Division of Radiologic Imaging Sciences, one of the five divisions of the CHRP Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences. These allied health practitioners will work closely with, and under the direct and indirect supervision of radiologists (M.D.s) to provide enhanced patient care and diagnostic services in a variety of urban and rural health care delivery settings as members of existing radiology practice groups. The American College of Radiology (ACR) Council unanimously approved this concept in May 2003. The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) provides the practice standards and curriculum model for the academic preparation of R.A.s.

Candidates for the R.A. program will be certified Radiologic Technologists (R.T.s) experienced in assisting radiologists with fluoroscopic examinations and interventional procedures. As a specialized radiologist extender, the RA will utilize advanced expertise in imaging technology and radiation protection strategies to demonstrate the appropriate anatomical features and diseases that may be present in a patient while applying the

lowest possible radiation exposure. The RA will be academically prepared to provide patient services in fluoroscopic and interventional imaging, including preparation of pertinent patient history, and anatomical, physiological, and pathological data, and the images necessary for the radiologist to diagnose an increasing variety of conditions and diseases. Graduates of this track in the MIS program will be eligible to sit for the national Radiologist Assistant credentialing examination available starting in 2005 from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Anticipated enrollment in the MIS program is expected to be approximately five students in each year of the two-year program.

The UAMS Radiologic Technology program has been in operation since 1947. At its most recent accreditation review, in April of 2000, the department received full accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The Division of Radiologic Imaging Sciences currently offers a 24-month Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology degree track and a 36-month Bachelor of Science degree track. The 24-month component emphasizes the general learning concentrations of radiographic procedures, patient care, radiographic pathology, radiobiology, and technical image evaluation. Associate of Science degree graduates are eligible to sit for the ARRT examination in radiography. The 36-month Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology degree program builds on the foundation of the Associate of Science program with the additional learning concentrations of mammography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or radiographic vascular imaging. Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science program, the graduates may sit for the ARRT advanced certification examination in their areas of specialized study.

University of Arkansas at Monticello

Associate of Applied Science in General Technology

Program Summary

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in General Technology will provide students with a general education foundation coupled with technical course work. The proposed degree will enable students to design an individualized program of study to fulfill a unique career goal that cannot be met through the completion of any single technical certificate. With the approval of the academic advisor or unit head and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the student may select courses from one or more technical disciplines and develop a coherent technical program that prepares students for employment in occupational and technical fields.

The proposed degree program, scheduled to begin August 2005, is consistent with the Mission Statement of the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The proposed curriculum has been developed with input from UAM faculty at the Monticello location, with the goal of enhancing the opportunity for Crossett and McGehee College of Technology students to transfer into a UAM baccalaureate program. The proposed curriculum will consist of a minimum of 64 semester hours. The courses are designed to fulfill program requirements or prerequisites in the Associate of Applied Science Degree in General Technology at UAM.

The University has the required classrooms, computer lab facilities, software, and all equipment to support this degree program. All of the courses for the Associate of Applied Science degree in General Technology are already offered as part of the curriculum and will be taught by existing or adjunct faculty. The instructional materials and library resources are adequate.

The objectives of the program include:

- a. To provide students with the general education component required for an associate of applied science degree.
- b. To provide an opportunity for students to complete technical core courses or a technical certificate program needed to complete the associate of applied science degree prior to entering an advanced degree program or direct employment.
- c. To provide students with enhanced knowledge and skills necessary for additional training in other technical disciplines.

ADHE

Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

ITT Technical Institute, Little Rock, Arkansas

ITT Technical Institute of Little Rock, Arkansas, submitted an application for recertification of the Associate of Applied Science degrees in Information Technology, Computer & Electronic Engineering, and Computer Drafting and Design. ITT Technical Institute of Little Rock is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools as a branch of ITT Technical Institute, Thornton, Colorado. The Associate of Applied Science degrees are the first two years of the Bachelor of Science degrees which were certified in 2004. ICAC will review the application at the January 11, 2005, quarterly meeting.

Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine of Tulane University submitted a request for decertification of the Master in Public Health degree program that was offered in Arkansas in cooperation with the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences. No students are currently enrolled in the program in Arkansas. The request for decertification will be presented to the ICAC at its January 11, 2005, quarterly meeting.

Revision of ICAC Rules and Regulations

The ICAC met on October 5, 2004, and voted unanimously to present the Proposed Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee to the Coordinating Board for public hearing on October 21, 2004. The request for Board adoption of the ICAC Rules and Regulations will be considered by the ICAC at its January 11, 2005, quarterly meeting.

Revision of State Minimum Core Curricula

Proposed revisions to the state minimum general education core curricula at the two- and four-year colleges and universities will be submitted for Coordinating Board approval.

Economic Feasibility for Bond Issue for Arkansas Tech University

Arkansas Tech University (ATU), requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$1,000,000 with a maximum term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 5%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. The Arkansas Tech University Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on October 21, 2004.

Economic Feasibility for Bond Issue for Southern Arkansas University

Southern Arkansas University (SAUM) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$2.7 million to construct a new band hall and an athletic practice facility.

Economic Feasibility for Bond Issue for University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling approximately \$21.4 million to be used for various renovation and construction projects on campus.

Annual Report on First-Year Student Remediation for Fall 2004

Remediation rates for the Fall 2004 entering class will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. Remediation rates by institution will be compared to the two previous years. The customary statistics of unduplicated headcount and breakouts by race/ethnicity, gender, age, attendance status, and remediation subject area will be included.

Annual Enrollment Report, Fall 2004

The customary enrollment statistics will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. This will include enrollment statistics for total, on-campus, race/ethnicity, gender, age category, attendance status, and FTE. A section for annual unduplicated headcount will be added this year.

Annual Report on Productivity of Recently Approved Programs

Degree productivity of certificate and associate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 2000-01 (after three years) and baccalaureate and graduate degree programs approved by the Coordinating Board in 1998-99 (after five years) will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. AHECB productivity standards for baccalaureate programs three graduates per year, two graduates per year for master's level programs, and one graduate per year for doctoral programs. The guidelines for certificate and associate programs are three graduates per year.

Approval of Reimbursement of Expenses for Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board and Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

In accordance with Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.) it is necessary for the Coordinating Board to adopt a resolution authorizing expense reimbursement for board members and members of the ICAC.

State Board of Higher Education Foundation Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established May 2, 1992. The Board for the Foundation includes three annually elected members: a president, a vice-president and a secretary/treasurer. The Foundation was established in order to accept private funds for specific projects for the benefit of higher education in Arkansas.

Approval of a Change in the Date for the October 2005 AHECB Meeting

Due to a conflict with the proposed October 28, 2005 meeting of the Coordinating Board at Southern Arkansas University, the Board requested that the staff work on finding an alternative date. After consulting with the SAU administration, the Board will consider a recommendation to change the meeting date to November 4, 2005.