

Docket Item:

University Program Approval: Eastern Oregon University (EOU), Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A./B.S./B.A.S.) degree in Emergency Medical Services Administration.

Summary:

EOU proposes a new program leading to a (B.A./B.S./B.A.S.) degree in Emergency Medical Services Administration.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program:

B.A./B.S./B.A.S. degree in Emergency Medical Services Administration at EOU.



Eastern Oregon University seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to a B.A./B.S./B.A.S. degree in Emergency Medical Services Administration.

1. *Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution’s mission and strategic plan.*

Eastern Oregon University’s (EOU) mission is to serve rural and eastern Oregon with a mix of programs designed to meet regional and rural needs. EOU already provides a significant number of students with the opportunity to build the skills and knowledge necessary to fill regional and rural demand for a workforce with a four-year degree in fire services administration. There is a similar regional and rural demand for a workforce with a four-year degree in emergency medical services administration. These needs are especially attuned to the needs of many rural counties of Oregon where students with two-year degrees in emergency medical services need a pathway to increase their knowledge in their chosen field, creating a better educated workforce with greater career opportunities to serve rural Oregon. For paramedics employed in rural areas, the increased knowledge and skills that come with a sound four-year degree amplify their ability to impact emergency health care in rural communities EOU engages with and serves.

2. *What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?*

There are no online bachelor’s-level Emergency Medical Services Administration programs in Oregon or anywhere else in the Pacific Northwest. This restricts many Oregon paramedic students from obtaining a degree without changing fields of study. Oregon community colleges have been asking EOU to create a route for their paramedic graduates to receive a bachelor’s degree in their chosen field for several years. Many firefighter-paramedics work on the emergency medical services side of the fire department and, therefore, a structural fire degree is less useful to them.

3. *Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?*

Oregon Tech has a program leading to a bachelor’s degree in cooperation with Oregon Health & Science University that is not online and is focused mainly on critical care transport rather than management and administration. EOU has agreed, at Oregon Tech’s request, to specify that this is an online program with a target market consisting primarily of community college transfer students.

4. *What new resources will be needed initially and on a recurring basis to implement the program? How will the institution provide these resources? What efficiencies or revenue enhancements are achieved with this program, including consolidation or elimination of programs over time, if any?*

No additional resources will be required initially. Many of the courses used in the program are existing Fire Services Administration and Business Administration courses. The students will fold into those courses and are unlikely to force additional sections the first year or two. Most of the courses will be taught by adjunct faculty that will require no outlay for additional full-time faculty. As the program grows, a need for a full-time faculty member to teach in Fire Services Administration/Emergency Medical Services Administration may become justified. No programs will be consolidated or eliminated by the creation of this program but it is likely that a great deal of course crossover will occur between Fire Services Administration and Emergency Medical Services Administration.

All appropriate University committees, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, and the Statewide Provosts Council have positively reviewed the proposed program.

Recommendation to the Commission

The Statewide Provosts Council recommends that the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission authorize Eastern Oregon University to establish an instructional program leading to a B.A./B.S./B.A.S. degree in Emergency Medical Services Administration, effective Fall 2015.

Institution and Program: Eastern Oregon University – B.A./B.S./B.A.S. in Emergency Medical Services Administration

Action: By e-mail vote on March 5, 2015, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program, B.A./B.S./B.A.S. in Emergency Medical Services Administration, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review/approval. All eight university provosts approved the program. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education approved this program at their April 10, 2015 meeting.

Eastern Oregon University

Sarah Witte, interim provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



Oregon Health & Science University

Jenny Mladenovic, provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



Oregon State University

Sabah Randhawa, provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



Oregon Tech

Brad Burda, provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



Portland State University

Sona Andrews, provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



Southern Oregon University

Susan Walsh, interim provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



University of Oregon

Frances Bronet, acting provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained



Western Oregon University

Steve Scheck, provost

Approved

Opposed

Abstained

