

# Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents

## Update Agenda Item: Certificate and Program Approvals

**Relevant Legal Authority:** Board of Regents Policy 4.11 gives the KCTCS President the authority to approve credentials new to a college but already within the KCTCS Catalog. These include Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Fine Arts, and Associate in Applied Science degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates.

Degree programs of study new to a college are approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education before approval by the KCTCS President. As per the Policy, the Board is to be informed quarterly of all credential approvals—this update provides that information.

**Background:** The credentials included on this notification were approved between June and August 2024.

### Summary of Credentials

#### Three (3) New Degree Programs:

- Hazard Community and Technical College – AAS in Health Science Technology
- Hazard Community and Technical College – AAS in Nuclear Medicine Imaging
- Maysville Community and Technical College – AAS in EMS - Paramedic

#### Seventeen (17) New Certificates (certificate descriptions follow):

- Ashland Community and Technical College – 1 certificate
- Big Sandy Community and Technical College – 2 certificates
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College – 4 certificates
- Elizabethtown Community and Technical College – 4 certificates
- Gateway Community and Technical College - 3 certificates
- Henderson Community College – 3 certificates

<b><i>Credential Level</i></b>	<b><i>Number Requested</i></b>
Degrees	3
Diploma	0
Certificates	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20 New Credentials</b>

### Descriptions of Newly Approved Degree Programs

#### Hazard Community and Technical College AAS in Health Science Technology

Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) has long been recognized for its contributions to local and regional healthcare communities and the quality of its healthcare program graduates. The past COVID-19 pandemic placed heightened stress upon the healthcare system and has resulted in a continued increased demand for well-trained, competent healthcare workers. In reviewing projections, high job demand and growth are projected for the vast majority of healthcare professions within Hazard's service region. According to the Kentucky Occupational Outlook Report, healthcare will play a vital role in Kentucky's job market over the next decade.

## **Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents**

Additionally, the report indicates that Kentucky's healthcare workforce must contend with notable population health concerns. According to the most recent America's Health Rankings Annual Report (AHR), Kentucky's overall health outcomes ranked 45th in the nation. Within that broader measure of health outcomes, Kentucky ranks 45th in terms of people experiencing frequent mental distress, 48th in terms of frequent physical distress, and 48th in people with multiple chronic health conditions. Unfortunately, Kentucky's years-long substance use crisis also persists, as the state ranks 49th in drug deaths with a reported rate of 47.3 drug-related deaths per 100,000 Kentuckians in 2022.

High smoking rates, high e-cigarette rates, high obesity rates, frequent multiple chronic conditions, and low exercise rates relative to other states also contribute to the complexity of patient care that providers encounter in their work. Kentucky's overall ranking for measures of clinical care stood at 31st in the nation. The healthcare workforce is the primary medium in which health services are delivered to communities, making it a critical component in supporting the health and well-being of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

With such a detrimental outlook from the recent America's Health Rankings Annual Report (AHR), health related fields including support positions such as those embedded in the Health Science Technology (HST) program are needed more than ever. Healthcare Technical/Support Occupations (including phlebotomist, nursing assistants, medical records, and mental health support occupations) are expected to grow an average of 12.62%. Combined, employment in these occupations is expected to account for 8.68% of all jobs in the state of Kentucky by 2026. From the Kentucky Occupational Outlook through 2029, healthcare technical/support occupations are projected to experience an average of 11.65% change in coming years.

HCTC administrators and faculty continuously meet with local and regional healthcare providers to discuss the shortage of qualified, well-trained healthcare workers and HCTC's role in providing solutions to healthcare shortages. Impending retirements, high turnover rates, "burn out," and high salary demands were amongst the factors cited as contributors to critical shortages. Employers who provided critical feedback include Appalachian Regional Hospital (which has several hospitals and clinics in the HCTC Region), Juniper Healthcare, Primary Care Centers of Southeastern Kentucky, Ky Mountain Health Alliance, and Quantum Health. The meetings focused on mutually beneficial collaborations between HCTC and their institutions to address unmet needs. The Health Science Technology AAS program could also allow a direct pathway for dual credit students. HCTC offers the Project Lead the Way certificate with one local school and several school districts have allied health pathways that can connect to this degree.

### **Hazard Community and Technical College AAS in Nuclear Medicine Imaging**

According to the Kentucky Workforce Capacity Report conducted by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Office of Data Analytics, nuclear medicine technologists had people per provider ratios worse than the national rate. The report suggested a need to intervene to attract additional healthcare workforce capacity, including nuclear medicine technologist, to the state of Kentucky. To practice nuclear medicine, one must hold a state license through the Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. Students will need the appropriate education to pass credentialing exams to qualify for a state license. Since there are currently

## **Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents**

no programs in Kentucky, this is a challenge. Students must travel outside the state to achieve the appropriate education. The Hazard CTC AAS in Nuclear Medicine Imaging program can meet current and future needs of the state. Kentucky's working population in healthcare is aging and future needs will be difficult to fill without access to a program within the state.

Hazard CTC was approached by local healthcare providers who identified a great need for nuclear medicine imaging technologists within their institution and support the addition of this program.

A Lightcast Labor Market Insights report demonstrated 258 job postings within the 2023 to 2024 year, calculated using a 200-mile radius. The program will be offered in an online format and will meet the needs of Hazard's service region and beyond. The report indicated the average median salary being offered is \$48/hour, exceeding the median national starting salary.

The Nuclear Medicine program will be delivered in an online format for the didactic courses of the curriculum and in person for the clinical content. A competency-based model is being considered for the delivery of the entire program. This will allow flexibility for those who may be working and wish to improve technical skills.

### **Maysville Community and Technical College AAS in Emergency Medical Service (EMS) - Paramedic**

Given the continued need for first responders in Kentucky, KCTCS colleges must provide the required training to meet this demand. The AAS in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic will provide the required training for students pursuing this career. Maysville Community and Technical College currently offers a certificate in Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic and expanding the program to offer the AAS degree would allow for greater career opportunities with higher wages.

According to the Kentucky Occupational Outlook Report: *"Healthcare will play an important role in Kentucky's job market over the next decade. 'Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations' and 'Healthcare Support Occupations' are expected to grow by 12.7% and 14.3%, respectively. Combined, the employment in these two occupations is expected to account for 9.8% of all jobs in the state of Kentucky by 2026."*

Pending specialized accreditation approval, clinical rotations of the program between multiple campuses will allow access for students in the entire college service area. Additionally, the program will incorporate components of a competency-based instructional format, allowing for flexibility in lab hours to better meet the needs of adult students. The program will ensure demonstrated skill proficiencies to produce highly capable and confident paramedics who are well-prepared to handle real-world medical emergencies.

# **Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents**

## **A Description of the New Certificates Follows**

College	Embedded within Program	Program Title	Certificate Title	CIP Code	# Of Colleges Offering
<i>Ashland Community &amp; Technical College</i>	Yes	Automotive Technology	Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Technician	470604	7
<i>Bluegrass Community &amp; Technical College</i>	Yes	Business Administration	Accounting	520201	15
	Yes	Business Administration	Accounting Recordkeeping Specialist	520201	13
	Yes	Business Administration	Financial Perspectives	520201	14
	Yes	Business Administration	Payroll Accounting Specialist	520201	14
<i>Big Sandy Community &amp; Technical College</i>	Yes	Fire Science Technology	Basic Firefighter	430203	11
	Yes	Fire Science Technology	Emergency Medical Technician	430203	14
<i>Elizabethtown Community &amp; Technical College</i>	Yes	Fire Science Technology	Basic Fire Protection	430203	5
	Yes	Fire Science Technology	Emergency Medical Responder	430203	5
	Yes	Fire Science Technology	Fire Service Administration	430203	6
	Yes	Fire Science Technology	Hazardous Materials Technician	430203	5
<i>Gateway Community &amp; Technical College</i>	Yes	Air Conditioning Technology	Boiler Maintenance	470201	7
	Yes	Air Conditioning Technology	Building Controls	470201	8
	Yes	Air Conditioning Technology	Chiller Maintenance	470201	7

<i>Henderson Community College</i>	Yes	Engineering and Electronics Technology	Robotics and Automation Technician	150399	9
	Yes	Computerized Manufacturing and Machining	Machine Tool Operator I	480503	15
	Yes	Agriculture	Agriculture	010301	2