



August 13, 2021

Mr. Tim McDonald
President
Lanier Technical College
2535 Lanier Tech Drive
Gainesville, GA 30507

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

New Program-Approval

**Technical Certificate of Credit (T.C.C.) in AWS (Amazon Web Services) Cloud
Computing Specialist**

Submission date:

3/3/2021

Intended Implementation date:

8/8/2021

Case ID:

SC013314

Your letter dated March 3, 2021, noted submission of a new program approval for implementation August 2021. For reference, the due dates for submission of a prospectus are:

- January 1 for new programs with implementation dates between July 1 and December 31 of the current year, *or*
- July 1 for new programs with implementation dates between January 1 and June 30 of the following year.

As part of the review of the submission, additional information was requested by email. The institution's response has been incorporated into the originally-submitted materials.

The institution will offer the Technical Certificate of Credit (T.C.C.) program in AWS (Amazon Web Services) Cloud Computing Specialist (program title verified by email July 28, 2021) at the main campus as well as the Forsyth, Winder-Barrow (name as listed in the SACSCOC database), Dawson, and Jackson campuses through classroom lecture and distance education. The program complements existing awards in computer information systems and prepares students for AWS certifications including Cloud Practitioner, Solutions Architect Associate, and Developer



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Associate. The program targets students currently studying computer information systems technology and working professionals who wish to earn credentials to help advance in their career. Enrollment projections for the 16-credit hour program for the initial year of implementation are 20 students in the day and 20 students in the evening. Students from each campus will enroll and constitute a single section/class taught by a single instructor, and students will use computers at all locations to access cloud services computers.

Program need was supported by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics growth projections for computer and information technology occupations, and demand for skilled workers in cloud computing, big data collection/storage, and information security. The initiative aligns with the institution's mission and supports objectives in its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The program was reviewed and approved by the institutional curriculum/instruction committee, composed primarily of faculty members, and has been approved by the college President and by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia. As confirmed by email, the institution's local board is advisory and does not have approval authority for academic programs.

The program curriculum for the two-semester program, projected schedule of courses, and course descriptions were provided. Programmatic goals and program student learning outcomes were delineated. The annual Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report is the primary tool of program assessment and describes the method or instrument by which student learning will be assessed, such as examinations, projects, or skills check-sheets. Program admission will operate under an open, non-competitive process, and graduation requirements were noted. Discussion of the institution's compliance with Standard 10.7 (Policies for awarding credit) included reference to State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia policy and consistency with federal definition of the credit hour. Program oversight will be provided by the Computer Information Systems Technology Program Coordinator, who reports to the Dean of Advanced Technology and Engineering.

A Faculty Roster Form was provided for the part-time faculty member who will teach the certificate courses and included academic degree and industry certifications. Discussion of the institution's percentage of instruction offered by full-time faculty was noted. Faculty qualifications and adequacy of faculty appear appropriate. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review team who will assess the program as part of the institution's next SACSCOC accreditation review.

Learning resources are accessible at the five locations of Lanier Technical College (LTC) as well as online, and a list of resources relating to computer information systems/cloud computing included books/eBooks, databases, electronic journals, and media resources. Most resources are available electronically, and the library web page contains links for online resources, including



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guides for specific courses and directions for using library resources off-campus. The library director is available to online students/faculty and those at off-campus sites by email, phone, or chat. Library orientations are taught each term for gateway and most English classes, and a library orientation is also posted on the web site.

Students in the new program will have access to established student support services. Orientation sessions for incoming new students include support with setting up and navigating the online email and student information systems. All new students also have access to an optional online orientation. Discussion of student support activities beyond the learning environment was noted.

The program will use existing labs in the Computer Information Systems Technology program, which include industry-current dual-monitor desktop computers at each campus. Available computers are adequate for writing, uploading, and executing code for cloud computing, as noted in the prospectus.

Budget discussion included delineated projected costs for salaries and additional library acquisitions over three years. Financial support comes from local funds (tuition and fees), and discussion of revenue generation was noted. Financial support appears adequate, and contingency planning was included. The institution is not on reimbursement for Title IV funding.

Institutional effectiveness is assessed through established process and instruments including strategic plan reviews, annual unit plans, student learning assessment reports, and various indirect assessments (surveys). Faculty analyze assessment data from the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report (noted earlier in the analysis) to document use of assessment results, including data comparison of instruction across methods of delivery. Assessment of the program will be incorporated into the annual assessment reporting protocol, annual plans, and departmental budget for the Computer Information Systems Technology program.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Technical Certificate of Credit (T.C.C.) program in AWS (Amazon Web Services) Cloud Computing Specialist. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Denise Y. Young at 404-679-4501 or via email at dyoung@sacscoc.org.



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

Note: The SACSCOC substantive change policy was revised in 2020 and updated in March and June 2021. The policy has many new requirements and changes to previous requirements. The *Substantive Change Policy and Procedures* and learning resources are available on the substantive change webpage at www.sacscoc.org.

Sincerely,

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

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/MAC:lp

Enclosure (invoice with liaison's copy only)

cc: Dr. Joanne P. Tolleson, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Operations, Lanier
Technical College
Dr. Denise Y. Young, Vice President, SACSCOC