



June 5, 2020

Dr. D. Ray Perren
President
Lanier Technical College
2535 Lanier Tech Drive
Gainesville, GA 30507

Dear Dr. Perren:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

Significant Departure Program

Technical Certificate of Credit (T.C.C.) in Mechatronics Systems

Submission date:

12/19/2019

Implementation date:

8/3/2020

Case ID:

SC008511

The 16-credit hour Technical Certificate of Credit (T.C.C.) program in Mechatronics Systems, which is consistent with the mission of Lanier Technical College, is designed to train students in the installation, calibration, maintenance, and repair of complex systems used in advanced manufacturing environments. The target audience is traditional college-age students, as well as working mechatronics systems technicians seeking to advance their careers. Courses will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face and distance learning instruction with an expected initial enrollment of 16 students. Administrative oversight will be provided by the Program Coordinator. As a rationale for the program, the College cites U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data projecting a 16% growth in the employment of precision manufacturing and maintenance technicians through 2024. The Certificate program was approved by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia in September 2019.

A list of all other programs offered by the College was provided, as well as a list of approved off-campus instructional sites. The curriculum, course descriptions, and student learning outcomes were provided. Admission and graduation requirements for the program were provided, along with the definition of a credit hour, were also noted. Student learning will be assessed through skills check sheets and examinations. The Certificate program will also be integrated into the College-wide institutional effectiveness process, which was described in detail. This process involves the systematic collection, review, and use of assessment data for continual improvement of teaching and learning. Results are compiled into annual Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Reports which include explicit comparison of student learning across delivery modes.

The Faculty Roster describes the qualifications of the one faculty member who will support the Mechatronics Systems program. The faculty member has a related graduate degree in engineering



Dr. D. Ray Perren
June 5, 2020
Page 2

technology and appears qualified to teach the assigned courses. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review teams who will assess the faculty as part of the institution's next SACSCOC accreditation review.

Library and learning resources appear to be adequate. The Lanier Technical College Library has a collection of both physical and electronic resources that support the mechatronics curriculum. This collection includes books/e-books, journals, and databases. A list of discipline-specific resources was provided. Students may access all items in person from any campus location, or online from the Library website. Additional external resources may be obtained through GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online), interlibrary loans, and through cooperative borrowing agreements with multiple libraries across the state. Library orientations with research skills are taught in English classes so that all students receive instruction on the use of library resources. Students may also receive assistance through individual consultations, research guides, and via telephone, email, or chat through the Ask-a-Librarian service.

Student support services appear to be adequate and are available to all students regardless of location. Along with standard academic support services such as financial aid, student records, and admissions the College provides additional support through academic advising, career services, and personal counseling. Specialized resources are available for veterans, non-traditional students, and individuals with disabilities. Students have access to tutoring services in face-to-face sessions and online through Tutor.com. The College also provides students with opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities that contribute to their intellectual, emotional, physical, and professional development outside the classroom.

The physical resources appear to be adequate. Instruction for the proposed Mechatronics Systems program will be offered on the Lanier Technical College main campus and the approved Barrow Campus. Both locations provide modern, well equipped classroom and lab space. The Certificate program focuses on automated manufacturing which is a sophisticated process that will require considerable equipment such as circuit trainers, hydraulic/pneumatic trainers, digital multimeters, oscilloscopes, and assorted hand tools. Existing lab space will be reconfigured to accommodate the simulation robotics cells.

Financial support for the program appears to be adequate; a projected three-year budget was provided. Expenses will include instructional personnel, equipment, faculty travel, and library resources. Revenues will come from student tuition and fees. The program is expected to be self-sustaining after the first year of operation. A contingency plan is in place to ensure the program's financial stability in the event expected enrollment numbers are not achieved. Lanier Technical College is not currently on reimbursement for Title IV funding.

Policy Update

Please note that, at its meeting in June 2018, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved modification of the *Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions Policy Statement*, for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.



Dr. D. Ray Perren
June 5, 2020
Page 3

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 Mechatronics Systems. 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/SKO:lp

Enclosure (invoice with liaison's copy only)

cc: Dr. Joanne P. Tolleson, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness & Operations
Dr. Denise Y. Young