



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Paul E. Perry, Committee Chair & Assistant Professor of Paramedic Technology
Dane Wallace, Assistant Professor of Paramedical Technology
Tiffani Perry, Paramedic Clinical Coordinator
Talis Colberg, College Director, & Holly Bell, Assistant Campus Director, Mat-Su College
Gary Turner, College Director, & Cheryl Siemers, Assistant Director, Kenai Peninsula College

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Paramedical Technology AAS

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): The Paramedical Technology AAS at the Matanuska-Susitna College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). The Paramedical Technology AAS at the Kenai Peninsula College is seeking initial accreditation and was issued a Letter of Review by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP Executive Office).

Campuses where the program is delivered: The Paramedical Technology AAS is delivered at the Matanuska-Susitna College (MSC) and the Kenai Peninsula College (KPC).

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:

The Paramedical Technology AAS provides students with the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to enter the field of pre-hospital emergency medicine as an entry-level paramedic. Paramedics provide care to acutely ill or injured patients under the medical authority of licensed physicians. The Paramedical Technology AAS serves our state by providing top quality paramedics to Emergency Services employers. The program has excellent partnerships with hospitals and fire/EMS services. It also has MOAs with providers in large cities out of state, so that students can complete their required internship hours. Upon returning from these placements, students are well prepared to become licensed paramedics. Program graduates are able to take the National Registry Paramedic Certification (NREMT) exam. This program is central to the College of Health's mission to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities. Employment growth in Alaska for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics is expected to be moderate (+12.1%), with an average of 28 annual openings.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity:

Unfortunately, program demand has been low, with an average of 15.7 graduates per year (6.9 at the Kenai Peninsula College and 8.9 at the Matanuska-Susitna College). On a positive note, the number of majors increased significantly in the last three years (from 13 in FY17 to 23 in FY19; a 77% increase). The increase was greater at the Matanuska-Susitna College (+100%), where the program is now available partially by distance. Faculty understand the need to improve demand, and are already working to address this problem. To improve demand, the program will focus on recruitment. It will also explore opportunities for offering continuing education.

Program Quality, Improvement, and Student Success:

The AAS in Paramedical Technology has full national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) on the Matanuska-Susitna campus, and is under a Letter of Review (LOR) on the Kenai Peninsula College campus through the Committee on Accreditation (CoAEMSP). Several student outcomes greatly exceed the thresholds set by CoAEMSP. Data from the most recent annual report show that 70% of students were retained, 100% passed the National Registry written examination, and 100% were employed. The program has been very well funded, with both capital and TVEP funds. Students are able to train on state-of-the-art simulators and are educated in very technologically advanced classrooms and labs. The program emphasizes high impact teaching practices. In particular, students are required to perform community service each semester. This further strengthens the local communities' support for the program. Members of the local communities also serve on advisory boards to assess program quality, recommend improvements, and ensure student success.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:

The Paramedical Technology AAS is delivered at both the Matanuska-Susitna College and the Kenai Peninsula College. The University of Alaska Fairbanks offers an AAS in Paramedicine. It also offers a Paramedic Academy. Each program is important in serving its local community.

Commendations and Recommendations:

To improve demand, the program seeks to allocate additional effort on student recruitment. Increasing options and enrollments in EMT classes is expected to facilitate recruitment into lower-division courses. This could be a pathway into the Paramedical Technology AAS. The program will also explore the possibility of offering continuing professional education opportunities. These are promising strategies, but faculty will need to work closely with their Directors to discuss workload implications. Adjunct faculty may need to be recruited to support these activities.

Decision:

Continuation.