

Community College of Philadelphia

The Path to Possibilities™

TO: College Community

FROM: Donald
President



Generals

DATE: March 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Institution-Wide Committee Decisions

This is to inform you that I have taken the following actions on recommendations made to me by the Institution-Wide Committee Spring 2021:

- A. Approved the proposed revisions to the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Biological Sciences, as follows:

The program revision replaces the general elective in the first semester with a new four-credit First-Year Experience course, updates the catalog grid, course sequence, and curriculum map, updates the course titles for HIST 121 and HIST 122, and corrects an error in the second semester in the catalog grid.

When the Biological Sciences program was approved in Spring 2020, it included a three-credit general elective and the stated intention to replace it with an FYE course. The addition of the four-credit BIOL 100: Introduction to the Life Sciences raises the total number of credits from 60 to 61. In addition, the catalog grid and course sequence have been updated to reflect the College's revised general education requirements, effective Fall 2021.

- B. Approved the proposed revisions to the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Applied Engineering Technology (ASET), as follows:

The Applied Science and Engineering Technology degree is being revised to align better with the "pathways" model that has become more prevalent in community colleges. Students will have the option of taking courses that lead to different pathway outcomes. Choices include an engineering technology pathway and a transfer pathway. In the future, a pathway for new programs can be developed (e.g., solar, robotics, and/or drone technology).

The engineering technology pathway is geared towards the student who wishes to complete the A.A.S. degree and seek employment upon graduation in an electrical and/or technical field where knowledge of basic electronics is essential. This pathway includes core electronics courses and program electives. The electives include in-context principles and concepts relative to the workplace environments that students may be employed in.

The transfer pathway is designed to allow a student to transfer into a bachelor's degree engineering technology program. Locally, both Temple and Drexel offer engineering technology degree programs at the bachelor's level.

The name of the degree is changing from Applied Science and Engineering Technology to simply "Applied Engineering Technology (AET)". The new program name is in alliance with the new

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes, which will allow the College to market the program more effectively.

- C. Approved the proposed new Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology (BMET), as follows:

The Biomedical Equipment Technology (BMET) program currently exists as a stackable certificate program that leads to an A.A.S degree in Applied Science and Engineering Technology (ASET). The ASET program is undergoing a revision intended, in part, to create a student pathway that will be clearer to students. At the same time, the BMET certificate program has a clear pathway to completion. The content and structure of the curriculum will not change. The program will continue to be guided by the Core Curriculum project developed by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), the international professional organization.

Establishing the BMET program as a stand-alone A.A.S degree program, while retaining the stackable credentials model, will provide an associate degree that is clearer to students and clearer to employers. In addition, enabling students to earn an A.A.S in Biomedical Equipment Technology will make them eligible to become a Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician more quickly.

- D. Approved the proposed new Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Education: Middle and Secondary Level, as follows:

The new Education: Middle and Secondary Level program has been developed to take the place of three current education programs: Education: Middle Level (4-8th Grades), Education/Secondary Humanities/Social Studies Education Option, and Education: Secondary Math/Science Option. Education: Middle and Secondary Level consolidates the three current curricula options into one in which students take common courses in education, psychology, and history and choose general electives and content electives based on level (Middle or Secondary), concentration (Math/Science or Humanities), and subject area. Streamlining into a single program improves alignment with federal and state regulations and program assessment. There are no new or revised courses in this new program.

- E. Approved the proposed revision to the Grade Appeal Policy, as follows:

The revised Grade Appeal Policy decreases the number of steps from the current policy of 9 steps to 5 steps with the final decision to be made by the Vice President for Academic and Student Success. Extensive research on similar appeals processes at 7 other peer institutions was conducted. The proposed revision is in response to numerous complaints from faculty, students and staff that the current process was not fair, not impartial and not equitable.

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