

RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED BY CRITERIA

Background: During the 2015 Legislative Session HB 838/Act 230 made the Board of Regents (BOR) and the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) jointly responsible for recommending a list of associates and shorter-term programs for use by students receiving the TOPS Tech scholarship. Moreover, programs will be approved in alignment with state workforce demand, guided by The Louisiana Occupational Forecast, in order to better meet the workforce needs of Louisiana business and industry while simultaneously leading to a greater number of Louisiana residents pursuing education and training that leads to satisfying, high-wage employment. A council was formed consisting of members of the Industry-Based Certification Council, two BOR members, and two WIC members, to develop a process and criteria for undertaking this program evaluation.


At the initial meeting of the Council in October, the group decided to evaluate all of the **currently ineligible** programs at the Associate level. Staff support members developed an evaluation process and criteria for this task, which is described below. The council approved the criteria and recommends that the WIC and BOR approve it along with the programs that fit the criteria.

Recommended Procedure and Criteria:

1. All **currently ineligible programs** were cross walked to the Star Jobs Ranking System.
2. Any programs that did not crosswalk to a 4- or 5-star job were eliminated.
3. For programs that did crosswalk to 4- and 5-star jobs, support staff conducted research using the following procedure and criteria.
 - a. Retrieve information on the course requirements for each program from institution.
 - b. Ask institution about student outcomes (i.e., go on to four-year programs; go directly to work- if so, where?).
 - c. Retrieve information on companies employing completers, if immediately entering the workforce is one of the outcomes.
 - d. Contact three to five employers, preferably in the region where the program is located to determine if students are being hired from the program. If so, for what positions and at what salary. Is there a career trajectory?
4. If employers confirm they do hire or would hire graduates of the program, pay above average wages, and favor program completers over other applicants, the program is recommended for inclusion.

Action Required: Recommend that 1) the WIC approve the TOPS Tech Program Evaluation Process and Criteria for Currently Ineligible Programs; 2) approve programs recommended for inclusion by the Council based on this process and criteria; and 3) authorize Dr. Jenee Slocum, WIC Director to transmit approved Criteria and Program List to the Board of Regents for consideration/approval in accordance with the law.

Submitted by: TOPS Tech Program Evaluation Council

Approved: 
 Charles Moniotte, Chairman Date 12/15/15
 Workforce Investment Council, Chair

**TOPS TECH PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY COUNCIL
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION**

DEGREE	INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE
AS	BRCC	COMPUTER SCIENCE
	SUSLA	
AS	Delgado	ELECTRICAL-ELECT. ENGINEER TECH.
AS	SLCC	INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
AS	Nicholls	PETROLEUM SERVICES
		SAFETY TECHNOLOGY
AA	McNeese	PARALEGAL STUDIES
	Nunez	
AA	Delgado	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AS	BRCC	
	FTCC	
ASCJ	LSUE	
AS	HSC-NO	DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY
AS	FTCC	CARDIOPULMONARY CARE SCIENCE
AS	LSUE	RESPIRATORY CARE
AS	BRCC	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
AS	LSUA	RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
	LSUE	
ASN	BPCC	NURSING
	BRCC	
	Delgado	
	FTCC	
	La Tech	
	LDCC	
	LSUA	
	LSUE	
	NSU	
	SLCC	
	McNeese	
	Sowela	
	SUSLA	
AS	BRCC	BUSINESS
	Delgado	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
	SLCC	BUSINESS
	SUSLA	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
AS	SUSLA	ACCOUNTING
	Delgado	

GOING FORWARD – CYCLICAL REVIEW

Staff support members recommend that the development of an ongoing evaluation process be developed in 2016 in conjunction with the development of a Louisiana-specific crosswalk that will connect occupations classified by Standard Occupation Code (SOC) to academic programs, classified by Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code.