



March 6, 2025

Board of Trustees
Mountainland Technical College

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Program Assessment

In accordance with Utah Code 53B-16-102(5)(b)(ii), this assessment is provided for the proposed Civil Construction I program, which the Mountainland Technical College Board of Trustees will review for approval.

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) evaluates program proposals to ensure compliance with Utah Board of Higher Education policies and statutory requirements. This includes reviewing program alignment with institutional roles, service regions, credential definitions, program approval processes, and technical education standards. The assessment also incorporates peer review feedback into OCHE's analysis and recommendation.

Program Assessment and Peer Review Feedback

The proposed Civil Construction I program aligns with Mountainland Technical College's mission to prepare students for employment in the civil construction industry. Utah's construction sector continues to grow, with operating engineers and other construction equipment operators projected to see 33% job growth over the next decade, creating approximately 720 annual job openings statewide. The program was developed in collaboration with Clyde Companies, a significant industry partner, and received Talent Ready Utah Works Grant funding to support its implementation.

Peer reviewers endorsed the program, noting its strong industry alignment, employer support, and potential for expansion. The program is structured to provide a foundational pathway into civil construction careers and articulates with secondary education efforts to create early entry opportunities for high school students.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Civil Construction I program is recommended for Trustee approval.

Next Steps and Trustee Actions

The Board of Trustees will review this proposal and OCHE's assessment to determine whether to approve, defer, or reject the program. If approved, Mountainland Technical College will notify OCHE, and the program will be placed on the Utah Board of Higher Education's consent agenda for final review.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner of Higher Education
Utah System of Higher Education

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Clay Christensen, President

Holly Peterson, Chief Instructional Officer

Attachments

- OCHE Program Assessment and Commissioner's Recommendation, including Peer Review Summary and Feedback
- New Program Proposal



GENERAL REPORT

March 2025

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Program Assessment

New Technical Education Program

Institution: Mountainland Technical College

Program Title: Civil Construction I

Requested Credential: Technical Certificate (4 Credits/120 Clock Hours)

CIP Code: 46.0415

1. Policy Compliance Overview

Policy R312: Institutional Roles and Missions

The review confirmed that the technical education program complies with the designated role, associated criteria, and alignment with the institution's mission. Specifically, Mountainland Technical College's role includes offering technical certificates under R312-6.1 and Table 1, aligning with its mission to prepare students for technical occupations.

Policy R315: Designation of Service Regions

The review confirmed that the program will be offered within Mountainland Technical College's designated service region, ensuring compliance with the policy and meeting its criteria.

Policy R401: Approval and Modification of Instructional Programs

The review confirmed that the proposal complies with the processes outlined in R401-5.3 for program approval.

Policy R402: Certificate and Degree Award Structures

The review confirmed general compliance with the criteria defining the technical certificate.

Policy R403: Short-Term Training

The review evaluated whether the training should be classified as short-term training intended for experienced workers maintaining or upgrading their skills to meet workforce needs. The program exceeds the criteria for short-term training and appropriately qualifies as a technical certificate.

Policy R404: Technical Education Program Alignment

The review evaluated alignment standards for program structure, foundational and supplemental coursework, distinctiveness, and unique occupational focus. It also assessed whether program materials, including graduation requirements, course descriptions, and objectives, are clearly defined and consistent. The program complies with alignment standards.

2. Workforce and Economic Relevance

The program demonstrates strong alignment with workforce needs and industry demands.

- **Market Demand:** The Civil Construction program prepares students for employment in Utah's growing civil construction sector. According to the Utah Department of Workforce Services, Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators are projected to see 33% growth over the next 10 years, with approximately 720 annual job openings statewide and 38,200 openings nationwide through 2032.
- **Wage Potential:** The median annual wage for this occupation in Utah is \$53,190, with a regional median wage of \$50,170 in the Provo-Orem Metro area.
- **Partnerships:** The program was developed in collaboration with Clyde Companies, a major heavy civil contractor serving the Mountain West region. It also received a Talent Ready Utah Works Grant to support its initial implementation.
- **Educational Pathways:** Mountainland Technical College is working with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to create a secondary-level civil construction course. This course would allow high school students to receive credit for completing it.

3. Duplication of Programs

As part of the assessment, potential program duplication was reviewed per R312-5.3.1.3, with unnecessary duplication defined under R312-3.14. No other technical education providers in the Mountainland Region currently offer a certificate-level Civil Construction program. While institutions are encouraged to avoid duplication, OCHE is conducting a broader evaluation of program duplication across the system.

4. Institutional Capacity and Resources

The program meets institutional capacity standards defined in R401 and R404.

- **Location Offered:** The Civil Construction I program will be offered at the Lehi Campus, Building B, in Rooms 208 and 209.
- **Facilities and Equipment:** The program will be supported by dedicated classroom space and specialized construction equipment, including heavy equipment simulators, surveying tools, and industry-standard training materials. No new construction or relocation is required.
- **Faculty Qualifications:** The program will be taught by one full-time faculty member, a subject matter expert in civil construction with five or more years of industry experience at a supervisory level.

- **Financial Sustainability:** Mountainland Technical College launched the program with \$403,486 in grant funding from Talent Ready Utah Works. Tuition and state appropriations will cover ongoing costs.

5. Peer Review Feedback

The program underwent the peer review process coordinated by OCHE. No concerns were noted, and the program received general support. Key takeaways from the review included:

- Strong industry backing from major employers such as Clyde Companies.
- Alignment with workforce needs and projected job growth in Utah's construction sector.
- Potential for program expansion with additional course offerings in Civil Construction II for specialized training.

Conclusion

The Civil Construction I program proposed by Mountainland Technical College aligns with Utah Board of Higher Education policies R312, R315, R401, R402, R403, and R404. The program addresses workforce needs, establishes industry partnerships, and leverages external funding for successful implementation.

Recommendation for Approval

The program is recommended for Trustee approval.

Attachment

Program Proposal (including all supporting documentation)

Prepared by

Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner for Technical Education
Utah System of Higher Education

Utah System of Higher Education

Request for Approval of a New Technical Education Program

Part 1: Notification of Intent

Institution: Mountainland Technical College

Program Title: Civil Construction I

Program Length: 120 hours/4 Credits

Anticipated Implementation Date: January 6, 2025

Institutional Role and Mission Alignment: Yes

USHE Aligned Program: No

Campus Location(s): Lehi Campus - Building B

Within Designated Service Region: Yes

Credential Awarded: Technical Certificate

CIP Code: 46.0415

Part 2: Additional Program Information

Financial Aid Eligible: No

VA Eligibility: No

Delivery Method: Hybrid (1-99% online)

Work-Based Activities Included: No

Apprenticeship: No

Programmatic Accrediting or Regulatory Body: N/A

Opportunities for Industry Licensure or Certification: None

Admission Requirements

Prospective students must meet the MTECH entrance assessment requirements.

Program Eligibility

Secondary (12th grade) and Post-Secondary Students are eligible to enroll.

Schedule

The program is scheduled both day and evening. Students may start this program at the beginning of Fall or Spring Semester. Students will attend six (6) hours weekly during the

following timeframes: 7:30 am - 10:30 am, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, or 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Classes are run Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday.

The courses are cohort-based.

Comparable Programs

BYU and UVU offer Bachelor Degree Construction Management programs, but no certificate programs. No other educators in the Mountainland Region offer Civil Construction at the certificate level.

Collaboration

This program was created in collaboration with Clyde Companies, a Heavy Civil Contractor that provides services throughout the Mountain West. The program was also awarded a Talent Ready Utah Works Grant to fund the start-up of the program. Grant funds are awarded for one year.

Educational Partnerships

Currently working with USBE to create a new course that will be available to secondary LEA's (Local Education Agency's) to allow students to have credit for completing the course.

Market Demand/Need

According to the Department of Workforce Services, Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators have a projected growth of 33% over the next 10 years. There are approximately 720 annual job openings in the State of Utah and over 38,200 annual projected job openings in the United States through 2032. In 2020 Utah employed approximately 4650 individuals and is projected to employ 6,180 employees by 2030.

Wage Potential

The Department of Workforce Services projects that the average earnings for Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators are, \$53,190.00. The annual median wage for the Provo-Orem Metro area is \$50,170.00.

Facilities

The Civil Construction I program will be offered at the Lehi Campus-Building B in rooms 208 and 209.

Construction and Relocation Plans

None

Estimated Costs and Funding Sources

Mountainland Technical College secured funding to start this program through a Talent Ready, Utah Works grant. The funding given was a total of \$403,486.00

Program Resources

Faculty

Status	#	Qualifications
Full-Time	1	Civil Construction Industry Subject Matter Expert, documented to have worked in the Civil Construction Industry for 5+ years at a supervisor level; High School Diploma required
Part-Time	0	

Expense Budget

Personnel (Faculty Salary and Benefits)	0
<i>Full-time Faculty (Salary + Benefits)</i>	\$108,000.00\$
<i>Part-Time Faculty (Salary + Benefits)</i>	\$
Operating Expenses	\$
<i>Equipment [Description]</i>	\$295,486.00\$
<i>Travel (conferences, professional development)</i>	\$
<i>Resources (training materials, supplies)</i>	\$
Other	\$
<i>[Description]</i>	\$
Total Expenses	\$403,486.00

Funding

Internal Reallocation	\$
Appropriation	\$
Special Legislative Appropriation	\$
Grants and Contracts	\$403,486.00
Special Fees	\$
Total Funding	\$403,486.00

Student Program Cost

Postsecondary Tuition	\$480.00
Postsecondary Fees	\$50.00
Differential Tuition	\$
Secondary Fees and any additional costs	\$50.00