

Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents

Update Agenda Item: Certificate and Program Approvals

Relevant Legal Authority: Board of Regents Policy 4.11 gives the KCTCS President the authority to approve credentials new to a college but already within the KCTCS Catalog. These include Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Fine Arts, and Associate in Applied Science degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates.

Degree programs of study new to a college are approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education before approval by the KCTCS President. As per the Policy, the Board is to be informed quarterly of all credential approvals—this update provides that information.

Background: The credentials included on this notification were approved between January and March 2025.

Summary of Credentials

Five (5) New Degree Programs:

- Ashland Community and Technical College – AAS in Electrical Technology
- Henderson Community College – AAS in Education
- Maysville Community and Technical College – AAS in Civil Engineering Technology
- Maysville Community and Technical College – AAS in Electrical Technology
- Somerset Community College – AAS in Human and Social Services

Four (4) New Certificates (certificate descriptions follow):

- Hopkinsville Community College – 2 certificates
- Jefferson Community and Technical College - 2 certificates

<i>Credential Level</i>	<i>Number Requested</i>
Degrees	5
Diploma	0
Certificates	4
TOTAL	9 New Credentials

Descriptions of Newly Approved Degree Programs

Ashland Community and Technical College

AAS in Electrical Technology with the Industrial Electrician Track

ACTC has long-standing, quality partnerships with the industries and the companies it serves. This relationship is evident in the robust program advisory committees at ACTC. The Electrical Technology program is in consistent contact with employers hiring students. ACTC currently offers the Electrical Technology diploma and several certificates. Through program advisory meetings and other events, companies have expressed a clear desire for ACTC graduates from the Electrical Technology program to also hold a “content-specific” degree. For this reason, ACTC is pursuing the addition of an AAS in Electrical Technology. This will benefit students seeking employment post-graduation and demonstrate to ACTC’s partners their input is valued and acted upon.

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Henderson Community College AAS in Education

Henderson Community College (HCC) is adding the Associate in Applied Science in Education degree to its credential inventory. The institution's New Technical Program Development Committee and the college's faculty voted to approve the addition of this credential. HCC's rationale for requesting this degree is based on the fact that the curriculum of Henderson's 2+2 Education program with Murray State University uses the same curriculum as the AAS in Education. Only one 200-level course needs to be added to HCC's annual Education offerings to complete the AAS in Education. Henderson has between 15 and 20 students who complete the 2+2 program annually. These students could acquire the AAS in Education credential at the same time and would effectively complete a stackable credential. The coordinator of the 2+2 Education program would be the coordinator of the new AAS in Education degree, so no additional full-time faculty would need to be employed. Qualified adjunct instructors are already teaching courses required in Education as part of their current teaching obligations. No new instructional equipment or curriculum software would be needed as the courses are already being taught. With no new labor, benefits, equipment, or curriculum software costs, the addition of the AAS in Education will benefit students with no costs to the college. In addition, high schools in HCC's services area (Henderson County High School and Union County High School) have approximately 100 students interested in enrolling in courses for the AAS in Education as dual credit students. Currently, these students do not have a technical program pathway in education to HCC – a problem that will be solved by HCC offering the AAS in Education.

Maysville Community and Technical College AAS in Civil Engineering Technology

The Civil Engineering Technology program is designed to offer students the training necessary to establish careers in civil engineering technology fields. Career options include materials testing; residential and highway surveying; highway construction management; construction documentation; civil & survey mapping; construction site design and waste-water management. The demand for trained Surveying and Mapping Technicians, which falls under the umbrella of Civil Engineering Technology, is on the rise with annual openings of at least 7,100 and average wages of approximately \$46,000. A recent survey of local industry conducted by Maysville Community & Technical College (MCTC) indicated a severe shortage of these trained technicians

Carlson Software, Inc., located in Maysville, is a globally recognized leader in land surveying software development, training, and user support. MCTC and Carlson have a long history of successful collaborations, and the company has reaffirmed its commitment to MCTC and its students by agreeing to provide proprietary land surveying software to MCTC to use in new courses at a fraction of its cost. Carlson has committed continued assistance to students interested in exploring the Surveying and Mapping career field. This program was enthusiastically supported by the faculty in the Industrial Technologies academic division and was also endorsed by a vote of the faculty as a whole.

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Maysville Community and Technical College

AAS in Electrical Technology, Automated Industrial Controls Technician Track

The proposed Electrical Technology Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree aims to meet the growing demand for skilled technicians in the field of automation and industrial controls. Maysville Community & Technical College (MCTC) currently offers the Electrical Technology Diploma with three separate tracks, Industrial Electrician, Construction Electrician, and Automated Industrial Controls Technician. MCTC also offers all courses required for this AAS degree. No new faculty, facilities, or equipment will need to be purchased for the addition of the AAS degree program. The AAS degree will provide a better pathway for students to transfer to a 4-year university, while still enabling them to obtain embedded credentials as they progress through the curriculum.

Somerset Community College

AAS in Human and Social Services

Somerset Community College's (SCC) President, Provost, and Dean of Health Sciences attended a meeting with Dr. Leslie Sizemore at CPE and Carl D. Wilson, Senior Fellow, CPE Healthcare Workforce Initiatives, who provided data related to the need for programs to address mental health needs in the region. SCC plans to offer the AAS in Human and Social Services.

The Kentucky Occupational Outlook through 2031 specific to SCC's Cumberland Service Area in projects 7.29% growth in Human and Social Services through 2031. The growth is related to rehabilitation counselors (3.08%); substance abuse, behavioral disorder and mental health counselors (18.04%); mental health and substance abuse social workers (5.45%); social and human services assistants (13.81%); and community health workers (9.09%). SCC is currently requesting the addition of an AAS in Human and Social Services along with new certificate programs that can help support a transfer pathway.

The Dean of Health Sciences and several SCC representatives attended the 2023 Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) Summit. SOAR is a regional nonpartisan nonprofit that champions local projects, programs, and advocacy for 54 counties in eastern Kentucky with a mandate of filling the economic gaps left by the decline of the coal industry. During the Summit, SCC participants attended lectures about drug addiction and mortality and about the importance of recovery and treatment. The event highlighted the importance of these types of programs within the region.

The SCC Dean of Health Sciences attended the CLIMB Convening, an initiative focused on creating postsecondary pathways at KCTCS for individuals in recovery/re-entry seeking entry-level employment as peer specialists. These individuals, along with students interested in obtaining an associate degree or higher in human services, are the target audience for this new degree program.

Description of Reactivated Program previously suspended

Gateway Community and Technical College

AAS in Education

Gateway Community & Technical College (GCTC) suspended the AAS in Education in August 2020. According to the Kentucky Council on Post-secondary Education's (CPE) policy, when a program is suspended, it can be re-activated by college request within a five-year window. The five-year window

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for this suspension was scheduled to close as of August 2025, which allows GCTC to reactivate the program. Multiple factors supported the reactivation of the AAS in Education including 1.) state and regional teacher shortages, 2.) renewed transfer partnership with Northern Kentucky University, 3.) the 2025-26 update to Kentucky's Five Sectors that includes the Education sector and 4.) an increase in financial incentives for aspiring educators. The reactivation of the AAS in Education is supported by the KCTCS Provost.

A Description of the New Certificates Follows

<u>College</u>	<u>Embedded</u>	<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Certificate Title</u>	<u>CIP Code</u>	<u># Of Colleges Offering</u>
<i>Hopkinsville Community College</i>	Yes	Applied Process Technologies	Chemical/Refinery Operator	410301	3
	Yes	Applied Process Technologies	Industrial Worker	150701	4
<i>Jefferson Community & Technical College</i>	Yes	Manufacturing Engineering Technology	Enhanced Operator I	150613	7
	Yes	Manufacturing Engineering Technology	Enhanced Operator II	150613	1

March 13-14, 2025 Meeting