



Missouri Department of Higher Education

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NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

Sponsoring Institution(s): Three Rivers Community College

Program Title: Pre-Optometry

Degree/Certificate: A.S Pre-Optometry

Options: none

Delivery Site(s): Poplar Bluff – main campus, Malden, Sikeston, Kennett, Dexter

CIP Classification: 51.1108 (Please provide a CIP code)

Implementation Date: Fall 2013

Cooperative Partners: Click here to enter text.

AUTHORIZATION:

Dr. Wesley A. Payne

3-18-13

Name/Title of Institutional Officer

Signature

Date

Dr. Wesley Payne

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Person to Contact for More Information

Telephone



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PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Institution Name Three Rivers Community College
Program Name A.S. Pre-Optometry
Date February 15, 2013

(Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below. Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.)

Student Preparation

- Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required.
No special preparation will be required.
- Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable.
No special preparation will be required. It is the policy of Three Rivers Community College to maintain and promote educational opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, veteran's status or other non-merit factors. All populations will be served.

Faculty Characteristics

- Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate.
Normal faculty requirements that exist for those teaching in other transfer education program will be required. Three Rivers Community College will select instructors based on a combination of education and work experience in the respective fields of study where adjunct faculty is used. Adjunct faculty must meet the same academic and professional requirements for teaching of a given course as would be required of full-time faculty to teach the same course on campus.
- Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here.
It is anticipated that 75% of the program credit hours will be assigned to full-time faculty.
- Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation.

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The faculty will be expected to use various technologies such as Smart boards, Vernier laboratory data system, BlackBoard, internet-based and interactive television (ITV) delivery methods.

Enrollment Projections

- Student FTE majoring in program by the end of five years.
It is anticipated that 10 students will major in the program by the end of five years.
- Percent of full time and part time enrollment by the end of five years.
Full-time 50%
Part-time 50%

Student and Program Outcomes

- Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation.
It is anticipated to have six graduates at the end of three years and ten at the end of five years.
- Special skills specific to the program.
None
- Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration.
None
- Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used.
It is anticipated that the program graduates will score at or above the 50th percentile on the ETS Proficiency Profile Exam administered during the last semester prior to graduation.
- Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed.
It is anticipated that 90% of the graduates from the program will be employed in the field.
- Transfer rates, continuous study.
It is anticipated that 75% will transfer to a four-year institution for further studies. The courses in the degree program are designed to transfer to four year universities.

Program Accreditation

- Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide reasons.
There are no state-level accreditations applicable for this A.S. program.

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Alumni and Employer Survey

- Expected satisfaction rates for alumni, including timing and method of surveys.
It is estimated that 75% of the students surveyed will indicate that they are satisfied with the program and feel that they are prepared to transfer to an pharmacy degree program at a four-year institution.
- Expected satisfaction rates for employers, including timing and method of surveys.
It is anticipated that 90% of the businesses employing our graduates will be satisfied with the technical skill demonstrated by our graduates.



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PROGRAM STRUCTURE

A. Total credits required for graduation: A.S. in Pre-Optometry 64 Credit Hours

B. Residency requirements, if any: 15 Credit hours must be completed at Three Rivers Community College

C. General education: Total credits: 27

Courses (specific courses OR distribution area and credits):

ENGL 111 3 cr. ENGL 112 3 cr. GOVT 111 3 cr.
BIOL 190 5 cr. CHEM 121 5 cr. MATH 171 5 cr.
PSYC 111 3 cr.
cr. cr. cr.
cr. cr. cr.

D. Major requirements: Total credits: 37

BMGT 239 3 cr. BIOL 231 4 cr. BIOL 253 4 cr.
CHEM 122 5 cr. PHYS 211 5 cr. PHYS 212 5 cr.
PSYC 243 3 cr. CHEM 240 5 cr. MATH 223 3 cr.
cr. cr. cr.
cr. cr. cr.

E. Free elective credits: None (Sum of C, D, and E should equal A.)

F. Requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience: None

G. Any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation:

The A.S. in Optometry is designed to transfer to the university of Missouri – St. Louis for students planning to complete a degree or program of studies prior to taking the Optometric Admission Test (OAT) leading to the Degree of Doctor of Optometry.



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STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	1	2	3	4	5
Part Time	1	2	3	4	5
Total	2	4	6	8	10

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Form SE - Student Enrollment Projections

SUMMARY OF NEED

A. Student Demand

A program of study for students interested in optometry is not available in our service area. This field of study is a discipline that requires a substantial science background. The total amount of science necessary makes this program more suitable to an associate of science degree rather than an associate of arts degree for more efficient transfer. Students in our service area currently have limited options available for completing 200 level science courses. This program was developed so that students in our service area could obtain this degree without having to leave the area. Students can take the basic requirements through Three Rivers Community College and then transfer to University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL) College of Optometry to complete their undergraduate requirements. Students would then take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and apply to the Doctor of Optometry program at UMSL's School of Optometry. Students in our service area would have access to a pre-optometry option in a more affordable and accessible form.

Based on discussions with students enrolled in science and advanced science classes, some expressed their concern with being able to smoothly transfer from Three Rivers to an optometry program. This option would allow them to more easily make this transition. The assessment of Three Rivers Community College faculty indicated there is a need for a degree option for students interested in this field of study. The demand in optometry is expected to grow due to the increased need for eye care by an aging population as well as an increase in eye disorders as a result of an rise in chronic disease such as diabetes.

The enrollment for the first five years of the program for full- and part-time students is estimated as follows:

Year 1	2013-2014	2
Year 2	2014-2015	4
Year 3	2015-2016	6
Year 4	2016-2017	8
Year 5	2017-2018	10

The size and scope of the program will initially be limited due to availability of funds for advertising and marketing of a new program. For enrollment projections, see FORM SE attached.

B. Market Demand

Needs analysis was conducted by evaluating the options currently available in our service area for our students in optometry. An accredited degree in this field of study is desirable to better prepare the students to take the OAT and transfer their coursework to UMSL's Doctor of Optometry program. There are jobs in our service area requiring this field of study.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) under the Department of Labor indicates that the job outlook for optometrists is expected to increase by 33% between 2010 and 2020 which is much faster than the average for all occupations. This particular field is expected to grow faster than the average and job prospects should be excellent according to the BLS. The growth in jobs in optometry will be driven in part by the increase in the number of eye disorders as the population ages and as the rate of diabetes increases. An increasing number of insurance plans cover some vision insurance. An increasing number of optometrists are expected to retire in the next year years opening up opportunities for new graduates. Employment is expected to continue to grow in doctor's offices, retail stores, outpatient clinics and hospitals. Approximately 22% of optometrists were self-employed in 2010.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development shows that there were 720 optometrists in Missouri in 2011 with 50 optometrists in south east Missouri a population of approximately 366,761 people. The mean annual salary of optometrists employed in the region was \$96,783 in southeast Missouri. Based on BLS's projected growth rate of 33% over the next 10 years there may be a need for approximately 17 additional optometrists in the region over the same time period, not taking into account retirement and relocation.

C. Societal Needs

This degree represents an affordable option for preparation for employment for residents of the service area. The tuition for a degree at Three Rivers Community College is relatively inexpensive and provides considerable monetary savings to students wishing to complete the first couple of years in the area prior to transferring to UMSL. In addition, the program provides citizens with the means of pursuing a degree in a field that provides a service to the community and provides a better standard of living for their families.

After evaluating the potential future growth of the optometry industry and the expected future need for optometrists, it was determined there is a demand for training of future optometrists in our service area.

D. Methodology for Identification of Market and Societal Need

Market demand and societal information was obtained from a variety of sources. Specific sources include, but are not limited to the following:

- Internet research on labor statistics in 2011:
 - ✓ Bureau for Labor Statistics
 - ✓ Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Needs assessment conducted by Three Rivers Community College staff (2012-2013)

DUPLICATION AND COLLABORATION

There are very few programs similar to this program offered by other community colleges throughout the state and none of the existing programs are available within our service area. Therefore there is no duplication of effort with any other community college.

This program in optometry is designed to be offered at the home campus and at our education centers located in Malden, Sikeston, Kennett and Dexter. The program was set up so that students can complete two years at Three Rivers Community College, transfer to UMSL to finish their undergraduate work, sit the OAT and apply to Doctor of Optometry degree program.