Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act

Date posted: April 17, 2012

Institution: Charter College

Current status: Authorized to offer degree programs at campuses in Pasco, Bellingham and Vancouver, Washington

Nature of request: Authorization to offer an additional degree program at the Pasco campus

Proposed program:

Associate of Applied Science in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

Washington site where the program will be offered:

Charter College-Pasco
5278 Outlet Drive
Pasco, WA 99301

Background:

Charter College is a division of Prospect Education which operates schools located in Alaska, California and Washington. Charter College has been authorized to offer degree programs at campuses in Washington State since April of 2009. It has been accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) since 1988.

Nature of the review:

Prior to granting authorization to offer new degree programs in Washington State, the Higher Education Coordinating Board/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

The program to be offered by Charter College appear to meet the requirements of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Information on the additional programs can be found at the end of this notice

Timeline:

The HECB will accept comments on this application until May 1, 2012.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to: mailto:DegreeAuthorization@hecb.wa.gov.

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, the statute is RCW 28B.85 and the regulation is WAC 250-61. They can both be found at the following link: Statutes and Regulations.

Program Title:
Associate of Applied Science in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

Program Outcomes:
"The Associate of Applied Science in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC) prepares students for employment as installers and maintenance mechanics in this rapidly growing and increasingly technical field. The program covers how to install, troubleshoot, and diagnose a variety of residential and commercial units. The general education courses expose students to diverse educational experience enriching critical thinking, communication skills, and cognitive abilities.
Graduates should be able to:

1. Describe heating systems for residential and commercial buildings.
2. Explain the operation of: boilers, natural gas and electric furnaces, and heat pumps.
3. Explain the control circuit parts and functions for heating and cooling units.
4. Describe the refrigeration cycle in terms of a residential air conditioning unit.
5. Diagnose electrical and mechanical malfunctions in HVAC systems.
6. Repair malfunctioning HVAC systems.
7. Identify appropriate HVAC systems for residential and commercial buildings.
8. Describe the operation of a Hydronics system for residential heat."

Number of Credits: 90 quarter credits

Required Courses:
General education requirements: (22.5 credits)
"There are no specific general education requirements. The program does require that students complete a minimum of nine credit hours in humanities, nine credit hours in mathematics and science, and 4.5 credit hours in social science."

Core courses: (63.5 credits total)
(all courses are 3.5 credits each unless otherwise noted)
HVC101 Core Knowledge and Skills (4.0 credits)
HVC112 Trade Mathematics and Tools
HVC123 Piping Practices
HVC134 Duct Systems and Vents/Flues
HVC145 Cooling and Heat Pump Systems
HVC156 Heating and Refrigeration Systems
HVC167 Electrical Essentials
HVC178 HVAC Control Circuits
HVC189 Troubleshooting Gas Heating and Cooling Systems
HVC210 Troubleshooting Heat Pumps and Oil Heating Systems
HVC211 Maintenance Skills
HVC222 Refrigerants Systems and Air Balancing Systems
HVC233 Environmental Systems
HVC244 Water Treatments and Energy Conservation Systems
HVC255 Refrigerants/Oil and Hydronics Systems
HVC266 Air Distribution and Compressors/Metering Devices

HVC277 Construction Drawings, Building Management/Hydronics/Steam Systems
HVC288 Heating/Cooling Systems Design and Commercial Refrigeration

Other requirements: (4 credits)
BUS101 Career Development (4 credits)