

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Curriculum Program Applications
Fast Track for Action [FTFA*]

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the curriculum program at the listed college on the condition that equipment funds are available to the college and operating funds generated by the budget formula will permit the offering of the program without any special allocation of funds.

Forsyth Technical Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant (1+1) (A45640)
Effective Term: **Fall 2026**

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Therapeutic Massage (A45750)
Effective Term: **Spring 2026**

Stanly Community College (Albemarle Correctional Institution #4580)
Business Administration (A25120)
Effective Term: **Spring 2026**

Background: Program applications must meet the following criteria in order to be placed on the Fast Track for Action (FTFA) program approval request presented to the State Board of Community Colleges as part of the consent agenda:

- The curriculum program title currently exists within the System and does not require the creation of a new program title and new curriculum standard;
- The application is complete, requires no further analysis or documentation, and has the endorsement of Academic Programs;
- There are no negative impact assessments from other colleges; and
- The college does not go outside of its service area for planning purposes.

Contact(s):

Dr. Hilmi Lahoud
Senior State Director of Business and IT
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**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
Forsyth Technical Community College
Physical Therapist Assistant (1+1) (A45640)**

Program Planning: Forsyth Technical Community College is seeking approval for the Physical Therapist Assistant (1+1) (A45640) to begin Fall 2026. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Forsyth and Stokes counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Forsyth Technical Community College on June 17, 2025. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Forsyth Technical Community College have certified the following:

- The proposed program will enhance the workforce of North Carolina, will provide educational and training opportunities consistent with the mission of the college, and will not duplicate the opportunities currently offered.
- They have assessed the need for the proposed program and the resources required to maintain a viable program and certify that the college can operate the proposed program efficiently and effectively within the resources available to the college.

Program Rationale: Forsyth Technical Community College indicates the following:

- Employment for Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) is projected to grow nationally by 19% from 2023 to 2033, which is much faster than the average for all occupations with a projected 27,000 more job openings each year nationwide due to new job creation and the need to replace retiring workers or those who leave the field (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, October 2025).
- According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual salary for Physical Therapist Assistants in North Carolina is approximately \$65,770. As of October 2025, there were over 350 job openings for PTAs in North Carolina and 59 in the college service area (ZipRecruiter.com).
- Forsyth Tech has a strong relationship with K-12 education partners and the local healthcare industry in the college service area. Forsyth Tech plans to create an educational pathway from high school to community college.
- Letters of support from East Forsyth High School, Novant Health, and Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital are included in the application.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Thirteen colleges are currently approved to offer Physical Therapist Assistant. Since the programs contain a clinical component, an impact assessment form was sent to colleges with the same or similar program. Nine colleges agreed with the impact assessment. Four colleges did not agree with the impact assessment but were supportive of the college applying for the program. ***No negative impact responses were received.***

Implementation of Collaborative Plan: Not Applicable.

Curriculum Design: The proposed program of study is in compliance with the State Board approved curriculum standard.

Curriculum Description as Designated on Curriculum Standard:

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct patient care settings under the supervision of physical therapists. Assistants work to improve or restore function by alleviation or prevention of physical impairment and perform other essential activities in a physical therapy department. Course work includes normal human anatomy and physiology, the consequences of disease or injury, and physical therapy treatment of a variety of patient conditions affecting humans throughout the life span. Graduates may be eligible to take the licensure examination administered by the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Employment is available in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinics, and public school systems.

Contact(s):

Melissa Smith
Senior State Director of Health Science Programs

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Summary Evaluation Report
Rowan-Cabarrus County Community College
Therapeutic Massage (A45750)

Program Planning: Rowan-Cabarrus Community College is seeking approval for the Therapeutic Massage Program (A45750) to begin Spring 2026. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Rowan and Cabarrus counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College on August 27, 2025. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College have certified the following:

- The proposed program will enhance the workforce of North Carolina, will provide educational and training opportunities consistent with the mission of the college, and will not duplicate the opportunities currently offered.
- They have assessed the need for the proposed program and the resources required to maintain a viable program and certify that the college can operate the proposed program efficiently and effectively within the resources available to the college.

Program Rationale: Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (R-CCC) indicates the following:

- Employment for massage therapists is projected to grow nationally by 18% from 2023 to 2033, and by 28% in North Carolina, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. This growth is driven by an increased awareness of the health benefits of massage, the aging population, the integration of therapeutic massage into holistic healthcare and sports medicine (October 2025, US Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- The median annual income in North Carolina for massage therapists is \$61,570 compared to \$55,310 nationally. There are currently over 100 job openings for massage therapists in North Carolina and 20 openings in the R-CCC service area (October 2025, O*NET Online).
- This program offers a fulfilling and financially sustainable career path for students who may not meet the entry criteria for selective health programs, allowing them to make a meaningful impact in healthcare while achieving economic independence through therapeutic massage.
- The college received \$500,000 in High Cost Start-Up grant funding to create the Therapeutic Massage Program.

- Letters of support from Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce, Greyston Salon and Spa, Kannapolis City Schools, and the JF Hurley Family YMCA are included in the application.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Nine colleges are currently approved to offer Therapeutic Massage. Since the programs contain a clinical component, an impact assessment form was sent to colleges with the same or similar program. ***Seven colleges agreed with the impact assessment. No negative impact responses were received.***

Implementation of Collaborative Plan: Not Applicable.

Curriculum Design: The proposed program of study is in compliance with the State Board approved curriculum standard.

Curriculum Description as Designated on Curriculum Standard:

The Therapeutic Massage curriculum prepares graduates to work in direct client care settings providing manipulation / massage of the soft tissue structures of the body to prevent and alleviate pain, discomfort, muscle spasm, and stress, and to promote health and wellness. Courses include content in normal human anatomy and physiology, therapeutic massage, ethical /legal issues, business practices, and psychology. Students should be able to perform entry level therapeutic massage with various populations throughout the lifespan. Employment opportunities include health care facilities, chiropractors 'offices, spas /health/sports clubs, and private practice. Graduates may be eligible to take the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Exam.

Contact(s):

Melissa Smith
Senior State Director of Health Science Programs

PROGRAM APPLICATION
Summary Evaluation Report
Stanly Community College
Business Administration (A25120)
Captive/Co-opted: Albemarle Correctional Institute (4580)

Program Planning: Stanly Community College is seeking approval for the Business Administration (A25120) program to begin Spring 2026 at Albemarle Correctional Institution (4580), a state correctional facility in the college's service area.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees of Stanly Community College on October 9, 2025. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Stanly Community College have certified the following:

- Stanly Community College's leadership has reviewed the full proposed Associate in Applied Science degree for Albemarle Correctional Institution and confirmed that the program is in alignment with the college's mission and core values.
- Labor market information was provided for Business Administration AAS graduates that offers evidence for employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, sustainable pay (see below), and career pathways in multiple sectors.
- The staff at Stanly Community College and Albemarle Correctional Institution have worked together to plan the details of the educational arrangements at the prison, including confirming availability of space for increased instructional activity, funding roles, and availability of educational technology, including secure correctional-compliant learning platforms.

Program Rationale: Stanly Community College (SCC) indicates the following:

- Stanly Community College is seeking approval for the full Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Business Administration at Albemarle Correctional Institution (ACI) to build on the existing certificate offering.
- The proposed degree will equip incarcerated students with in-depth business knowledge-- accounting, management, marketing, finance, business law, and economics-- alongside essential workplace skills like communication, digital competence, ethical decision-making, and teamwork.
- The proposed program is intended to provide inmates with the opportunity for a meaningful career upon release (employment or entrepreneurship, with average earnings of approximately \$62,800 per year or thirty (\$30) dollars per hour. (ziprecruiter.com and Lightcast.io)
- The proposed degree provides students with the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of business, including administrative services, finance, marketing, and entrepreneurship.
- The proposed program will follow the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC) and ACI-approved blend of face-to-face classes and enhanced digital coursework

delivered via secure correctional-compliant learning platforms. SCC faculty will teach onsite with support from ACI education staff, maintaining program quality and academic rigor.

- Classroom and lab spaces are available and have been utilized for vocational and academic instruction. ACI staff have confirmed the capacity to support increased enrollment.
- The proposed AAS degree in Business Administration consists of sixty-five (65) credit semester hours. This number of hours is typically spread across five semesters (two academic years). Students entering with existing certificate or diploma credits may complete the AAS in 12-18 months, depending on scheduling and course availability.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: The proposed program is restricted to inmates housed in a prison facility within Stanly Community College's service area, so it will not impact other colleges' programs.

Implementation of Collaborative Plan: Not Applicable

Curriculum Design: The proposed program of study is in compliance with the State Board approved curriculum standard.

Curriculum Description as Designated on Curriculum Standard: *The Business Administration curriculum is designed to introduce students to the various aspects of the free enterprise system. Students will be provided with a fundamental knowledge of business functions, processes, and an understanding of business organizations in today's global economy. Course work includes business concepts such as accounting, business law, economics, management, and marketing. Skills related to the application of these concepts are developed through the study of computer applications, communication, team building, and decision making. Through these skills, students will have a sound business education base for lifelong learning. Graduates are prepared for employment opportunities in government agencies, financial institutions, and large to small business or industry.*

Contact(s):

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