



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Joe Schaffer

To: LCCC Board of Trustees

From: Joe Schaffer, President

Date: March 17, 2021

Subject: Deactivation of the Equine Training Management AAS and Credit Diploma

During our budget reduction process this past fall, one of the areas we reduced was a faculty line within the Equine Training Management area. At that time, I did not recommend deactivation of the programs themselves, providing the opportunity for further examination to their design and need. Having completed that examination and analysis, I am now advancing my recommendation to deactivate the Equine Training Management Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree and the Credit Diploma.

I have included the detailed analysis and recommendation by Dr. Jill Koslosky, the Dean of the School of Business, Agriculture and Technical Studies as well as the concurrence memo of that recommendation by Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kari Brown-Herbst.

Therefore, because of a limited need for these programs within our service area I am advancing my recommendation to the Board of Trustees that the LCCC Equine Training Management AAS and Credit Diploma programs be deactivated effectively at the end of this, the 2020/2021 academic year. All students currently in the programs are slated to complete by this time, and LCCC is no longer accepting new students into the programs.

<p>Staff Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees approves the deactivation of the LCCC Equine Training Management AAS Degree and Credit Diploma Programs, effective at the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.</p>
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MEMORANDUM

Date: 14 March, 2021

To: Dr. Joe Schaffer, President

From: Dr. Kari Brown-Herbst, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs

CC: President's Cabinet

Re: Program Deactivation,
Equine Training Management Associate of Applied Science
Equine Training Management Credit Diploma



The attached memo from Dean Koslosky details her recommendation that two credentials in Equine Training Management be deactivated at the close of the Spring 2021 semester. She has considered several important program metrics in arriving at this determination. She has further begun the foundational work to ensure we deliver curriculum and credentials that will better serve interests in equine studies. Given the analysis provided in her correspondence, I concur with her recommendation that the College deactivate the Equine Training Management AAS, and the Equine Training Management Credit Diploma at the conclusion of the Spring 2021 semester.

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Academic Standards Committee

From: Dr. Jill Koslosky

CC: Dr. Kari Brown-Herbst

Re: Recommended Deactivation, LCCC Equine Training CD and AAS



Program History

In recent years, the enrollment trend for the LCCC Equine Training program has been low, and while COVID-19 has had an impact on enrollments across all programs and courses, the current enrollment trends suggest a student population in the program to continue below a threshold of 12 students. Additionally, as a result of the budget reduction determination in November 2020, the staffing in the Equine Training program been reduced and we no longer have the personnel to deliver instruction for the Equine Training credentials. These circumstances support the deactivation recommendation which is detailed below.

Enrollment

The table below presents our history in securing enrollments from students who express interest in the Equine Training program (this does not include the Equine Science transfer program). On average, less than one quarter of all students who initially express an interest in the Equine Training program at LCCC are actually enrolled as is shown below.

Semester	Interested Students	Number of Applications	Number Enrolled	Matriculation Rate, Interest to Applied	Matriculation Rate from Applied to Enrolled
Spring 2017	6	1	1	17%	100%
Summer 2017	4	1	0	0%	0%
Fall 2017	33	19	6	18%	32%
Spring 2018	5	3	1	20%	33%
Summer 2018	1	0	0	0%	0%
Fall 2018	32	16	12	38%	75%
Spring 2019	0	1	0	0%	0%
Summer 2019	0	1	0	0%	0%
Fall 2019	43	23	5	12%	22%
Spring 2020	5	0	0	0%	0%
Summer 2020	2	1	0	0%	0%
Fall 2020	38	22	3	8%	14%
Spring 2021	0	0	0	0%	0%
Fall 2021	19	15	0	0%	0%
AVERAGE	14	9.3	2		

*source, Recruit CMS, LCCC Admissions, March 2021

The table below demonstrates that enrollment in the Equine Training courses has averaged 9 students over the last four years (below the threshold every year).

Academic Year average enrollments per section:

- 2017-2018 – 6 students
- 2018-2019 – 7.5 students
- 2019-2020 – 9.5 students
- 2020-2021 – 6 students

Semester	Average Section Enrollment	Fall to Spring Attrition
Fall 2017	6	
Spring 2018	6	0%
Fall 2018	8	
Spring 2019	7	12%
Fall 2019	9	
Spring 2020	10	
Fall 2020	7	
Spring 2021	5	29%

Program Analysis

In Fall 2020 the Program Analysis study was conducted in order to measure program and course performance, cost, and economic potential/outcomes. All of the College's programs were analyzed on a series of measures in order to assess program viability. This analysis called Equine Science includes the equine training program, rodeo team classes, and the transfer program in Equine Science. According to that study Equine Science had the following measures:

- Scored a 3 on program majors from 2019-2020, placing in the 60th percentile amongst all programs in the College's catalog. This measure reflects the unduplicated headcount of students who declared this as their program of study.
- Scored a 1 on job listings, a measure of the regional number of job postings for occupations associated with the program. This metric scored in the 20th percentile of all programs at LCCC.
- Scored a 2 on regional wages which reflects the average regional median salary of individuals working in occupations related to this program. This score ranks in the 40th percentile of programs at LCCC.
- Scored a 1 on graduates who are employed in Wyoming two years after completing their program. This result placed in the 20th percentile.
- Success rates in the program are high (94%) which places Equine Training in the 90th percentile of the College's programs. However, the number of annual credentials is low.
- Cost per FTE is high at \$8,871.97 per student scoring in the 90th percentile among all programs at the College
- 2.9% projected growth in the industry places it in the 60th percentile when compared to other programs at the College.

The Program Analysis, Budget Reallocation Support report summarized the Equine Science (which includes Equine Training) measures as follows: "Equine Science earned 50.0 percent of its possible efficacy points and 42.2 percent of its possible value points. Its lowest value metrics number of regional job postings in the past twelve months; program uniqueness among Wyoming community colleges, financial amount of community investment, number and percent of graduates placing in jobs in

Wyoming, median earnings of graduates placing in jobs in Wyoming, and instructional cost per student FTE.

Program Information

While low student enrollment numbers are of concern, it should be noted that it is not an indication of the quality of the LCCC program. LCCC Equine Training has maintained a high quality of training and instructional expertise as evident through its ties to industry and high student success rates.

There are factors that point to a need for some level of equine offerings at LCCC and those will be addressed in a consolidation of equine science into the animal science offerings and a new credit diploma offering in equine management, both launching for approval to start in Fall 2022. These programs will address the changes that have affected the decline in equine training and the need for a broader focus to educating those wanting to work in the equine industry.

Industry History

The Equine Training Industry has changed over the past ten years. Historically students had to attend a college-level program to gain experience and the opportunity to work with talented trainers in the industry. The rise of exceptional youth equine programs affords young horse enthusiasts the opportunity to learn and train with those currently training and showing successfully in the industry. These early opportunities also help youth understand the work and requirements of being successful in the industry and many decide to keep horses as a side hobby while pursuing other degrees.

Low enrollment in equine training programs is not unique to LCCC as programs at public and private post-secondary institutions across the U.S have either significantly reduced capacity or shuttered programs all together. In addition, Wyoming is one of the few states to offer a program in equine training and it is offered at a number of community colleges within the state.

Recommendation

Due to a combination of factors including chronic low enrollment, changing industry need, and the loss of a full-time faculty position, it is the recommendation of the Dean of the School of Business, Agriculture, and Technical Studies, that LCCC deactivate the Equine Training program (AAS and CD) effective Fall 2021.