

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Additions To Special Curriculum Program Application List**  
Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350)  
North Carolina Community College System Office

**Request:**

The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve a request from North Carolina Community College System Office to add the following curriculum program title to the Special Application (abbreviated program application) process provided that the college has approval for the Industrial Systems Technology (A50240) program or the Automation Engineering Technology (A40120) program:

- Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350)

**Strategic Plan Reference(s):**

Theme: Economic and Workforce Impact

Goal 3: Ensure the educational pipeline prepares a workforce possessing the interest, knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the needs of employers, now and into the future.

- Objective 3.1.1. Identify and engage employers and relevant sources of data to determine high-demand occupations, program demand within the current labor market, and expected occupational earnings.
- Objective 3.2.2. Articulate pathways for educational and professional growth within key industries through employer engagement.

**Background:**

*The State Board delegates to the President of the North Carolina Community College System the authority to grant a college the approval to award the associate degree, diploma, or certificate for program titles that have been approved for this delegation by the State Board of Community Colleges based upon a widespread immediate need for the job training and minimal impact upon other colleges. (1D SBCCC 400.6 (a)(4))*

The Special Application process is an abbreviated program application process which requires that the college submit the following items for staff's review and endorsement prior to the President's approval of the application:

- 1) Local Certification (accompanied by a copy of the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting(s) where the proposed program was discussed and approved)
- 2) Proposed Program of Study
- 3) Impact Assessment Form(s) from colleges approved to offer the same or similar health science program which has a clinical component *and*
- 4) Three Year Accountability Report (must be submitted three years after program implementation)

**Rationale:**

Mechatronics has rapidly found acceptance in industry and education for accurately depicting the types of processes and technologies that are associated with modern manufacturing and related industries. College staff have conveyed that mechatronics, although very similar to industrial systems and automation regarding program competencies, is often considered a more appealing title for attracting students into the industry and consider the transition to mechatronics not much more than a program title change. Because of program similarities, the addition of the Mechatronics Engineering Technology program to the list of titles available for the Special Application process will not adversely impact other colleges.

**Vote Results:**

Colleges approved to offer the Industrial Systems Technology (A50240), Automation Engineering Technology (A40120) program or Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350): 40

Colleges in favor of recommendations:	34
Colleges opposed to recommendations:	1
Colleges not responding:	5

**Contact(s):**

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