COTC Accreditation Expanded

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) will now offer complete degree programs in Business Management/Technology and Human Services at all four of the college’s campus locations: Newark, Coshocton, Knox and Pataskala. Students entering these specific degree programs will now have the convenience of being able to complete their entire associate degree at any COTC campus.

The college recently received formal notification from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that the organization’s Institutional Action Council voted to extend COTC’s accreditation to include the Associate of Applied Business degree in Business Management and the Associate of Applied Science degree in Human Services at both the Knox and Pataskala Campuses. Degree programs in these two majors were already offered at COTC’s Newark and Coshocton Campuses.

The new accreditation status applies to all degree options within each of these two majors. COTC offers students three options for specialization within Business Management Technology: Human Resources, Marketing/Sales, and Office Administration. Within the Human Services program, COTC offers specialization in Chemical Dependency Counseling, Gerontology, and Social Services.

“We are delighted to share this important news from the Higher Learning Commission with our students and the communities we serve,” said Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., president of Central Ohio Technical College. “This is another example of COTC’s ongoing commitment to providing access to high-quality technical education to the residents of central Ohio.”

COTC has been accredited by the HLC since 1975 and is pursuing 10-year accreditation, the longest granted by the commission. The college will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit by its regional accrediting agency May 12 – 14, 2008.

College Will Now Offer Select Degrees at All Campus Locations

Get the Degree. Get the Job. Get the Point.
This is a pivotal time for Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) as we transition our focus from preparing the Self-Study for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaccreditation to a time of preparing the campus for the site visit this May. The new year will begin with a sense of stabilization as we concentrate on working the plans and ensuring all systems are in place to showcase the campus, people and programs during the site visit.

Preliminarily we have already received exciting news. As part of the accreditation process, we submitted a change request that would extend COTC’s accreditation to include the associate degree in Business Management Technologies (all options) and the associate degree in Human Services (all options) at both the Knox and Pataskala campuses. The change request was approved this fall by the HLC and will ensure students may complete their entire degree in these specific programs at any of the four campus locations: Newark, Coshocton, Knox and Pataskala. This is a wonderful accomplishment and a milestone as we work to ensure access for the communities we serve.

As we progress on production of the finished Self-Study report and look toward May for the conclusion of this process, in reality the benefits of the process itself will be long lasting. A strong sense of unity has developed as the college has come together on this project led by a Steering Committee of 18 members and a total of more than 90 people on the team who have given of their time, talents and energy. The open lines of communication have strengthened as we realized our interdependence on offices, programs and people. A renewed commitment to the mission of the institution has emerged along with a new awareness of the value of associate degree education.

In addition to the intrinsic benefits from the accreditation process, we will utilize the Self-Study as the foundation for the strategic plan as we move toward the future. I would like to commend the Self-Study committee and the college community for a wonderful effort as we work to ensure the reaccreditation of Central Ohio Technical College.

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Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., President

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The college will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit by its regional accrediting agency May 12 - 14, 2008.

COTC has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1975 and is pursuing 10-year accreditation, the highest granted by the commission. The evaluation team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission's requirements and Criteria for Accreditation. For more information on the HLC’s criteria, visit www.ncalahlc.org.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential. Comments may be submitted online at www.ncalahlc.org or can be mailed to:

Public Comment on Central Ohio Technical College
The Higher Learning Commission of the
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

All comments must be received by April 12, 2008.

www.cotc.edu
The Newark campus Child Development Center was recently reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals. The five-year reaccreditation was granted following an extensive self-study process measuring the program and its services against NAEYC standards, including more than 400 criteria as well as an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors.

Nursing Curriculum & Program Redesigned
Increased Skills - Students Now Admitted Every Quarter

Beginning winter quarter 2008, COTC implemented an innovative, new nursing curriculum. Redesigned to promote active learning and greater student involvement, the program also offers flexibility to meet constantly changing demands and student needs, accessibility and responsiveness to diverse student populations, and public accountability. Students selected into the program will experience:

- increased opportunity for lab time and skills development,
- greater emphasis on psychosocial skills needed for nursing,
- a significant increase in clinical experience opportunities,
- a single sequence of courses reflecting an easily followed path of study,
- smaller class sizes, individualized focus and faculty attention.

In addition, students will now be admitted every quarter, enabling prospective students to enter the program at their convenience.

COTC’s nursing program is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

Child Development Center Granted Reaccreditation

The Newark campus Child Development Center was recently reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals. The five-year reaccreditation was granted following an extensive self-study process measuring the program and its services against NAEYC standards, including more than 400 criteria as well as an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors.

Get the Degree. Get the Job. Get the Point!

Central Ohio Technical College is hosting a free
Health Career Expo!

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
5:30 - 8 p.m.
at COTC’s Newark Campus
RSVP by February 1
Call 740.364.9632

- Technology information tables
- Specific career exploration sessions with hands-on activities
- Optional campus tours

Break-out sessions in the following health fields:

- Nursing
- Radiographic Technology
- Sonography
- Surgical Technology
- Emergency Medical Services

COTC News

www.cotc.edu
COTC Unveils State-of-the-Art Facility in Coshocton

A milestone event occurred in early January when Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) unveiled the newly renovated Montgomery Hall with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, January 10. The structure, formerly the Roscoe Village Inn, has been completely updated as a state-of-the-art educational facility, including 15 new classrooms, laboratory space, a lecture hall, nursing laboratory, and distance learning classrooms. In addition, the building will feature new east and west entrances.

Public officials, community leaders and dignitaries attended the ceremony officially opening this permanent COTC campus in Coshocton. Following the ribbon cutting, a donor wall was unveiled in recognition of the 148 corporate and community partners who contributed to the Capital Campaign for Montgomery Hall’s renovation. There was also a special tribute to Robby Robinson, former long-time COTC board member and one of the founding fathers of the Coshocton Campus.

During winter quarter 2008, the COTC Coshocton Campus will offer 94 classes, an increase of 276 percent over winter quarter 2003, when the Coshocton Campus first opened at its Kenwood Drive location. Through the years more than 2,300 students have furthered their education at the Coshocton Campus, which currently serves students from 24 Ohio counties.

Basic Police Academy Coming to Coshocton

Beginning spring quarter 2008, COTC will offer the Basic Police Academy (BPA) at the Coshocton Campus. COTC’s BPA is designed to meet the requirements of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), and involves classroom as well as hands-on training, including driving, firearms, self-defense, traffic stops, building searches, and training in DUI cases. Cadets in the program are able to complete the requirements in approximately six months, and successful graduates are recommended to take the state certification exam.

Prospective students interested in the Basic Police Academy should contact the Coshocton Campus at 740.622.1408 to get started.

Knox Campus

The relocation of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce last fall allowed Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) to add four classrooms and a student resource and tutoring center to Ariel Hall, increasing to nine the total available classroom spaces. Because of the expansion COTC was able to schedule all of the autumn quarter classes (a total of 75 offerings) in Ariel Hall. Further, continual improvements have been made to Ariel Hall including exterior and interior signage and the addition of bike racks behind the building.

Knox and Pataskala Campuses Offer Complete Degree Programs in Business Management and Human Services

Students entering the Business Management or Human Services degree programs will now have the convenience of being able to complete their entire associate degree at any of Central Ohio Technical College’s fours campus locations: Newark, Coshocton, Knox, or Pataskala. This fall, COTC was informed of the Higher Learning Commission’s decision to extend the college’s accreditation to include the Associate of Applied Business Management Technology degree and the Associate of Applied Science in Human Services degree at the Knox and Pataskala campuses. Degree programs in these two majors were already offered at COTC’s Newark and Coshocton Campuses.

The new accreditation status applies to all degree options within each of these two majors. COTC offers students three options for specialization within Business Management Technology: Human Resources, Marketing/Sales, and Office Administration. Within the Human Services program, COTC offers specialization in Chemical Dependency Counseling, Gerontology, and Social Services.
Pataskala Campus Advisory Board Created

Members of the newly created Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) Pataskala Campus Advisory Board were appointed to their positions at the December meeting of the COTC Board of Trustees. The Pataskala Campus Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the COTC fiduciary board and will address a wide range of areas relating to the college such as finance, facilities, planning, academic affairs, student, campus and community affairs.

Members of the new Advisory Board are: Catherine Baird, an attorney in the real estate department of the law firm Bricker & Eckler; Steve Butcher, mayor of Pataskala and owner/operator of the Nutcracker Family Restaurant; Linda Dalgarn, owner of Dalgarn’s Nursery and Garden Center; Nelson Kohman, president of Columbus-based engineering firm EMH&T (Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton); Barb Triplett, director of teaching and learning for Southwest Licking Schools; and Bart Weiler, owner of Weiler Financial Group in Pataskala.

“The creation of this Advisory Board is a significant milestone for the development of the Pataskala Campus,” said Julie Maurer, Pataskala Campus administrator. “The majority of new jobs that will be created by 2014 will require some postsecondary education, according to the American Association of Community Colleges,” added Maurer. “Central Ohio Technical College is committed to providing associate degree programs in high-demand employment fields to the residents of central Ohio. This very strong Advisory Board will be instrumental in advising and assisting the college’s administrative leadership as decisions are made about the future of the Pataskala Campus,” she said.

The Advisory Board’s first meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2008, at noon, at the Pataskala City Council Chamber, at 621 W. Broad Street, Pataskala. The media as well as the public are invited to attend. Beginning in February, monthly Advisory Board meetings will be held at the same location and time on the first Thursday of each month.

Did You Know?

- In December 2007, the total number of COTC graduates (including degrees and certificate completion programs) was 220, an increase of 26 percent over the previous December.

- The average age of graduates in the December 2007 graduating class was 32.

- Students can now complete an associate degree in any of the Human Services or Business Management technologies at any of the college’s four locations: Newark, Coshocton, Knox and Pataskala.

- Graduates in December 2007 represented 16 different counties within Ohio, including students from as far as Ashland and Athens counties.

- The 2007 Basic Police Academy in Pataskala and the 2007 Accelerated Academy showed a 96 percent pass rate on the OPOTC State Certification Exam, based on the number of eligible cadets.

- According to a recent Employer Satisfaction Survey, over 90 percent of area employers surveyed stated that they would hire a COTC graduate again if given the opportunity.

- The majority of employers surveyed strongly support the skills taught by Central Ohio Technical College.

- On the horizon: COTC is developing a number of expanded online courses and programs.
Grad's Path to Success Began at COTC

The Rev. Michael Martin is well on the way to fulfilling his goals – and his path to success began at Central Ohio Technical College (COTC). After earning his Associate of Applied Science in Human Services degree with honors in 2001-2002, he founded Visions House in downtown Newark, a recovery house for substance abusers, where he serves as executive director. Visions House offers a safe, sober, Christ-centered environment, and links substance abusers with a 12-step program through Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholics Anonymous.

In addition, he also works as an on-call officer with the Juvenile Court system of Licking County, where he previously worked as a probation officer. “Typically, they only hire people with a bachelor's degree as probation officers,” said Martin. But his associate degree from COTC helped him land the job.

Until last year, Martin also worked as an associate minister with Shiloh Baptist Church, when he resigned to focus on starting a church of his own. His dream is to develop a new church to provide support groups to adults dealing with substance abuse and other issues.

Building on his COTC degree, the Newark resident is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts program in Ministerial Leadership at Ohio Christian University, formerly Circleville Bible College. When he completes his bachelor’s, Michael intends to go on toward a Master’s in Divinity at Trinity Lutheran College and plans to complete his master’s thesis on drug addiction and recovery, which is his work and his passion.

Gateway Offers Students One-Stop Convenience

Add or drop classes, change your address, complete an application, speak with an academic advisor, or simply get general college information, all in one convenient location. That’s the idea behind Central Ohio Technical College's (COTC) Gateway – a one-stop center for customer service, admissions, and academic advising.

Within the Gateway, these three student service areas are now all physically co-located, each with its own manager. The net effect allows students to more quickly move ahead with the business of obtaining an education.

The Gateway opened in Hopewell Hall on COTC’s Newark Campus prior to the start of autumn quarter 2007, and the concept was an immediate success. “The Gateway minimizes administrative challenges for our students by streamlining their experience. We can now provide better customer service and offer greater consistency,” said Susan Jaeger, Gateway manager for academic advising.

The Gateway’s other two managers, Kimberly Foster in customer service, and Christine LeBlanc in admissions, are equally enthusiastic about the concept’s success. Continuous improvement of the quality of its programs and services is one of COTC’s core values, and the Gateway is one prime example of how COTC transforms those values into real-life improvements for its students.

“The Gateway is an area which combines the functions of customer service, admissions and academic advisement,” said COTC Director of Enrollment John Merrin. “Prospective and current students now have one place to go to be assisted with most of their needs. Whether a person is considering attending COTC, or a student needs academic advice or a guest is looking for a specific on-campus location, we are here to provide the necessary support.”

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Crime scene investigation, principles of criminal justice, instrumentation analysis, abnormal psychology – these are only some of the diverse skills and training areas required in Central Ohio Technical College’s Associate of Applied Science in Forensic Science Technology program.

With more than 35 years of criminal investigation and law enforcement experience, Forensic Science Program Director Richard M. Vade Bon Coeur has the background and expertise needed to guide students in this growing field. He is a former senior criminal investigator for the Ohio Ethics Commission, and for a decade was a special agent in charge for the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, during which time he conducted investigations of homicides, sexual assaults, armed robberies, burglaries, forgeries, felony drug violations and economic fraud crimes.

Vade Bon Coeur came to COTC in 2003 as interim director for Forensic Science and was promoted to director in 2005. He received Special Merit Awards for Outstanding Service to the college in 2006 and 2008, and received the Student Services Above and Beyond Award in 2005. He holds a Master’s degree in Education and a Bachelor’s degree in Criminalistics and Law Enforcement.

“I’m proud to say that COTC’s Forensic Science program is not only highly regarded nationwide, but our students are actively recruited by institutions with bachelor’s programs,” notes Vade Bon Coeur. “In addition, our students are also being hired upon graduation; in a field where many of the jobs require bachelor’s degrees, that’s unusual,” said Vade Bon Coeur.

Vade Bon Coeur credits COTC’s dynamic hands-on curriculum for helping graduates secure employment. “We’re also a very tight-knit group at COTC,” added Vade Bon Coeur. “Our current students and graduates keep in touch; we really take care of each other.”
Campus Calendar of Events - February 2008

**COTC Health Career Expo**
Tuesday, February 5
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
COTC’s Newark Campus. RSVP to 740.364.9632 by February 1.
Find out about various rewarding health care professions. Talk with faculty and admissions staff, enjoy hands-on activities and refreshments.
*Free and Open to the Public*

**Faculty Lecture Series**
Thursday, February 7
Mitchell Lerner, Ph.D., Associate Professor, History
“Re-examining Lyndon Johnson”
7 - 9 p.m.
Reese Center Ballroom, RSVP to 740.364.9517
*Free and Open to the Public*

**Great Performers Series**
Saturday, February 9
Darol Anger – violinist, fiddler
Musical performance by legendary violinist, fiddler, composer, producer and educator
LeFevre Black Box Theatre, 8 p.m.
*Free and Open to the Public*

**College Goal Sunday**
Sunday, February 10
2 p.m.
Reese Center
This event helps families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and get expert advice about the financial aid process.
*Free and Open to the Public*

**Fiction Reading & Lecture**
Lee K. Abbott, nationally renowned fiction writer will be reading from his work and speaking on the craft of writing
Wednesday, February 13
7:30 p.m.
Hopewell 66
*Free and Open to the Public*

**30 Plays from Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind**
A play by Christopher Durang
Ensemble will perform 30 plays in 60 minutes, never in the same order twice – energetic and zany!
February 28, 29; March 1, 6, 7 and 8
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall