

PROGRAM APPROVAL APPLICATION
NEW or SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE or LOCALLY APPROVED
(This application may not exceed 3 pages)

Fill In Form

Environmental Technology / Environmental Field Technician

Fall 2016

Proposed Program Title

Projected Program Start Date

Rio Hondo College

Rio Hondo Community College District

College

District

Contact Information

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Voting Member

Title

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Phone Number

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Goal(s) of Program (Check all that apply):

- Career Technical Education (CTE) Transfer Other

Type of Program (Check all that apply):

- Certificate of Achievement 12-17 (or 17-27 quarter) units Certificate of Achievement 18+ semester (or 27+ quarter) units
 Associate of Science Degree Associate of Arts Degree

Reason for Approval Request (Check One):

- New Program Substantial Change Locally Approved

Program Information

0303.00

Recommended [Taxonomy of Program \(TOP\) Code](#)

NA

Units for Major-Degree

NA

Total Units for Degree

13-14

Required Units-Certificate

Written Form

1. Insert the description of the program as it will appear in the catalog. (See PCAH pp. 142 and 170)

The Environmental Technology Field Technician Certificate is designed to prepare students to enter the environmental field or to upgrade working individuals with field technician skills. Students will gain the skills and knowledge that allow a person to work in the environmental field in compliance with governmental regulations and also protect human health and the environment.

2. Provide a brief rationale for the program.

This application is being put forward to allow for the augmentation of an already existing Environmental Technology AS Degree (28 units) and COA (30 units) with a number of fewer-unit COAs that are stackable. One, of which, is the Environmental Technology/Field Technician Certificate.

The Environmental Technology/Field Technician Certificate provides students with the basic core courses that all Environmental Field Technicians would need to be successful in the environmental field. The certificate is 13-14 units, so it is designed to be completed within a few semesters and allow for a rapid transition as an intern/employee in the environmental field. The relatively low unit certificate is also designed to increase the number of certificate “completers” in the Environmental Technology Program. Additionally, the Environmental Technology Field Technician Certificate also contains the core courses that three (3) other specialty Environmental Technology Certificates require for completion. The “stackable” nature of the certificates will allow students to be completers with multiple certificates.

A review of the data from the CCCC Program Awards Summary Reports over the last two years (2013-2015) indicates that four of the LAOC/RC schools with the ET TOPS Code (030.03) (Golden West, Irvine Valley, Santa Monica, and Rio Hondo) show a combined AS degree and Certificate completion rate of 34 in 2013-2014 and 19 in 2014-2015. These numbers indicate the need to develop and implement new reduced unit certificates to not only stabilize the number of program awards but most importantly to increase the number of completers.

3. Summarize the Labor Market Information (LMI) and employment outlook (including citation for the source of the data) for students exiting the program. (See PCAH pp. 85-88, 136, 147, 148, 165, 168, and 176)

Many of the ET interns are placed in full and part time positions with the same companies that they are interning with, once the internship opportunity is finished. This is partly because of their newly gained experience in the field and because they have the proper coursework and required certifications to work successfully in the environmental field. The New ET certificate will definitely enhance the success rates of such job placement.

Nationwide job market analysis also suggests that there are ample employment opportunities for those who complete this proposed certificate.

Recent US bureau of Labor Statistics data showed that there were 90,000 Environmental Specialist, 32,800 Environmental Protection Technicians, and 19,000 Environmental Engineering Technician jobs in the US. These numbers don't include the specialized technicians that exist in water, waste, health and safety, etc. On one day, September 18, 2015, Career Builder.com listed 1,540 Environmental Science positions, 1,157 Environmental Consulting positions, and over a 1000 positions in many other environmental specialty areas that would employ environmental technicians.

Trained and certified Environmental Field Technicians can enter into an array of different environmental specialty such as water management, waste management, health and safety, etc. Data from the California LMI Dept. indicate that workers with SOC codes of 47-4041 (Hazardous Materials Removal Workers), 51-8031(Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators), and 19-4091 (Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, including Health) will

have, respectively 1209, 2087, and 914 jobs in 2016 and with 32, 78 and 83 annual openings respectively. The median income will range from \$21.08/hr. to \$33.33/hr.

Additional job titles include: Waste Water Operator, Site Worker, Environmental Technician, Laboratory Technician, and Field Technician.

The above data show that annual ET completers have averaged about 26/year over the past 2 years (2013-2014 and 2014-2015), whereas, the combined annual openings in Environmental Related positions number nearly 200. This indicates not only a more than adequate number of available ET jobs for these completers, but it also indicates the room for expanding/increasing the number of ET completers that the ET Field Technician certificate is designed to do.

4. List similar programs at other colleges in the Los Angeles and Orange County Region which may be adversely impacted. (There is space for 10 listings, if you need more, please contact laocrc@sccollege.edu)

College	Program	Who You Contacted	Outcome of Contact
Citrus College	Water Technology	James Lancaster	Supportive
LA Trade Tech	Solid Waste Tech	Sylvia Ibarra/Bill Elarton	No Objection
Mt. SAC	Water Technology	Paulo Madrigal	Supportive
Santa Ana College	Sustainable Facilities Mang.	Kimberly Matthews	Supportive
Golden West College	Recycling & Resource Management	Mary Wallace	Supportive
Irvine Valley College	Env. Sci./Sust.&Res.Mang.	Jeff Kaufman/Jodi Titus	Supportive/No Objection
Santa Monica College	Recycling & Resource Mang.	Ferris Kawar	Supportive

5. List all courses required for program completion, including core requirements, restricted electives and prerequisites. (There is space for 20 listings, if you need more, please contact laocrc@sccollege.edu). (See PCAH pp. 143 and 171)

Courses	Course Number	Course Title	Units
Environ. Technology	ET 230	Safety and Emergency Response	4
"	ET 260	Sampling and Analysis	4
"	ET 290	Internship/Cooperative Work Experience	1-2
Biology	BIOL 120	Environmental Biology	3
"	BIOL 120L	Environmental Biology Lab	1

6. Include any other information you would like to share.