CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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# PROGRAM APPROVAL APPLICATION
## NEW or SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE or LOCALLY APPROVED

## Fill In Form

**Cancer Information Management**
Proposed Program Title

**Fall 2017**
Projected Program Start Date

**East Los Angeles College**
College

**Los Angeles Community College District**
District

## Contact Information

**Christopher Whiteside**
Voting Member

**Dean Workforce Education**
Title

**(323) 265-8640**
Phone Number

**whitescj@elac.edu**
Email

## 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

| | |
|---|---|
| **1223.00** | Recommended Taxonomy of Program (TOP) Code |
| - | Units for Major-Degree |
| - | Total Units for Degree |
| **24** | Required Units-Certificate |

## Written Form

1. **Insert the description of the program as it will appear in the catalog.**
   The Cancer Information Management (CIM) Program prepares students for positions with hospital-based, central population based or special purpose registries. Cancer registrars, also known as tumor registrars, manage and analyze clinical cancer information for the purpose of processing, maintaining, compiling and reporting health information used for research, quality management and improvement, cancer program development, survival data, reporting standards, and national accreditation standards. Graduates who earn the Certificate of Achievement in Cancer Information Management and possess an Associate's Degree or higher in any field will be eligible to sit for the Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR) exam through the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA).

2. **Provide a brief rationale for the program.**
   The health care industry continues to increase emphasis on monitoring reportable diseases for population health management, quality of care, and lower costs. Cancer registries play an important role in the fight against cancer by identifying reportable cancers, coding and staging primary sites, examining histology and the extent of disease processes. Additionally, the cancer data reported to healthcare officials and hospital administrators is used in cancer prevention and

*Revised Tuesday, February 02, 2016*

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quality control.   According to the National Cancer Registrars Association, there is an increased demand for qualified Certified Tumor Registrars (CTRs) to manage cancer registries yet a low supply of qualified CTRs.   The Cancer Information management program will provide a resource for education and training to help fill the void in the workforce shortage of CTRs.

3. **Summarize the Labor Market Information (LMI) and employment outlook (including citation for the source of the data) for students exiting the program.**

According Cal Pass Plus Launch Board data (https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Home.aspx), in 2009 there were 4,595 Medical Records/Health Information Technician professionals in the HIM field.  Data from 2014 showed an increase to 5,196 positions adding an additional 601 positions in the Los Angeles County region.  In the Orange County region, a total of 1,409 professionals were listed increasing 110 positions in the area to 1,519.  The difference between the LA County and Orange County regions signify a difference of 491 more positions in LA County.

**Graduate Data from Cal Pass Plus Launch Board**
**# of Medical Records and Health Information Technicians**

| County | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 5 | 8 | 15 | 10 | 20 | 58 |
| Orange | 8 | 11 | 18 | 24 | 11 | 72 |

The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) notes that the Cancer Registrars are presently embedded in the health information technician workforce.  Many cancer/tumor registrars obtained jobs after completing coding certification.  For this reason, the NCRA http://www.ncra-usa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3868 is presently establishing a distinct detailed SOC occupation code for "Medical Registrars" that include specialties such as certified tumor Registrars and Cancer Registrars. According to this organization, several trends will increase the demands for these specialties projecting a 10,000 – 13,000 jobs in these areas by 2020.

The Centers of Excellence Labor Market website (http://www.coeccc.net/health/index.asp?view=all) supports information on the in-demand allied health occupations and coordinated a multi-regional research study of healthcare occupations in seven regions across California and regionally in Los Angeles County.  Information on medical coders (which includes the tumor registrars) indicate that over the next 12 months, employers in the subsectors will need to fill 2,148 openings created by new job growth and replacement needs.

Jobs for cancer registrars are expected to be in demand during the coming years; positions in the field are predicted to rise according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.  In 2013, the BLS listed the median annual salary of health information technicians, including cancer registrars, at $34,970.

4. **List similar programs at other colleges in the Los Angeles and Orange County Region which may be adversely impacted.**

| College | Program | Who You Contacted | Outcome of Contact |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cypress College | Health Information Technology AS Degree/Cert. | Rebecca Gomez, MS, MA, RHIA | Contacted program director twice – awaiting response. |
| Glendale Community College | Health Information Technology Coding Certificate | Sonali M. Perera, MBA, MHM | Congratulations on bringing forward new programs, I am all for supporting and growing opportunities for our students.  Yes, you have our utmost support and we will refer students should they be seeking that information. |
| Saddleback College | Health Information Technology AS Degree/Cert. | Safiah Mamoon, MS, RHIT, CPC | I think that your certificates are great, and would support it. In fact, please let me know if you have more information so that I can share with my students. |

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5. **List all courses required for program completion, including core requirements, restricted electives and prerequisites.**

| Courses | Course Number | Course Title | Units |
|---------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| HTHTEK | 242 | Cancer Registry Management I | 3 |
| HTHTEK | 243 | Cancer Disease Management | 4 |
| HTHTEK | 244 | Oncology Coding and Staging Systems | 3 |
| HTHTEK | 245 | Abstracting Principles and Practice I | 3 |
| HTHTEK | 246 | Abstracting Principles and Practice II | 3 |
| HTHTEK | 247 | Cancer Registry Management II | 2 |
| HTHTEK | 248 | Cancer Statistics and Epidemiology | 3 |
| HTHTEK | 249 | CIM Practicum | 3 |

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

Results from an Interest Survey forwarded to ELAC alumni, active students, faculty, and other HIM professionals interest in the new certificate program indicated 43% of 138 surveyed were interested in pursuing this certificate to enhance their professional growth. The program curriculum has been cross walked and mapped to the domains and competencies identified by the National Cancer Registrars Association. The HIT Program has solicited support and provided with a NCRA consultant to help with the process of gaining accreditation for its program once it is approved through the proper channels with LACCD.

Job searches for remote and telecommute cancer/tumor registrars on websites such as Indeed.com, Simplyhired, Monster.com, and Glassdoor.com, list an excess of 75+ jobs available on each site. The Linked-In website list a total of 248 to date. Salary ranges vary for CTRs depending on the setting and hours worked. Because so many registries are now required to employ only certified registrars, it is often necessary to pursue formal training rather than learning on-the-job. The NCRA suggest the best suited for on-the-job training are those shifting from positions in medical records, and health information management. They note that their related work experience and HIM degree better prepares them to pick up the detailed and highly specialized knowledge required for work as registrars.

Compounding the supply shortfall, over the last 10 years, an average of 135 CTRs have left the talent pool each year, creating more open positions and a widening gap between supply and demand. The rigorous standards that ensure professionalism in credentialed CTRs widen the gap between supply and demand of CTRs. With today's rising demand and dwindling supply of CTRs, many organizations are now face more hurdles that ever to correct problems and retain their organizational accreditation. (http://health-information.advanceweb.com/Editorial/Content).

ELAC has an excellent chance of supplying CTRs with the prerequisites to sit for the exam now including a minimum of an associate's degree in an allied health field and other requirements, this support the growth of the program in offering a stackable certificate at ELAC. **There are only five Cancer Registry Management Associate Degree Programs in the United States and four certificate programs.** Three of the associate degree programs are online (One in California -Santa Barbara College) and two face-to-face. There are only four certificate programs (3 online and one face-to-face up north).

There is a growing need for comprehensive cancer data review, collection, and monitoring as new advancements in healthcare and medicine provide better opportunities for cancer patients. This leap in data-oriented tasks has left the industry shorthanded in certain areas, especially the underserved areas.