**NARRATIVE TEMPLATE for a (credit) Certificate of Achievement**

**Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives**

The modified Certificate of Achievement (CoA) in bioprocess technology is aligned with MiraCosta’s mission as a career and technical education program and as an effort to support the economic and educational well-being of the communities served. This modified bioprocess technology certificate acts as an intermediary step in a stackable sequence of certificates at MiraCosta. The modified certificate serves as a steppingstone towards completion of pre-requisites and transfer into our bachelor’s degree program, which will better prepare them for entry-level positions in biotechnology within the region and beyond.

The modified bioprocess technology certificate will serve the needs of the growing biotechnology economic sector in San Diego County. There will be significant growth in biomanufacturing positions in coming years, and MiraCosta College’s Certificate of Achievement is well-positioned to serve this need.

The MiraCosta Community College Educational Plan 2016-2020 (addendum to the college’s Comprehensive Master Plan 2011-2020) contains 14 institutional objectives that describe strategies for achieving the College’s five institutional goals. The modified certificate in bioprocess technology is aligned with Institutional Goal I, as an innovative practice that will broaden access to higher education for students, Institutional Goal II, as an institution that maximizes student success, and Institutional Goal V, as a conscientious community partner in serving to provide students with the needed skills to participate in the growing biotechnology sector.

The modified certificate of achievement will prepare students for careers a manufacturing technician/associate, environmental monitoring technician/associate, or documentation specialist within the biotechnology industry. The modification adds elective coursework exploring the biological foundations of biomanufacturing, the impact of biotechnology and the workforce skills needed for this growing industry. These modifications were proposed after discussions with the advisory board and local companies during individual site visits.

This modified certificate further ensures that the student will complete some of the key preparation needed to be eligible to apply to the bachelor’s degree program in Biomanufacturing at MiraCosta. Upon completion of this program, students will be able to successfully perform a technical laboratory task common to the biomanufacturing environment by employing the appropriate equipment and tools, safely and effectively.

**Item 2. Catalog Description**

**Description**

This certificate provides a foundation in, and practical application of, the technologies employed by biotechnology companies engaged in the production of cell-derived products from small to large scales. Through a combination of applied lecture and hands-on laboratory instruction, students acquire the confidence, competence, and compliance for technical work in a regulated environment. Bioprocess technologies encompass the operation of specialized equipment and instrumentation used to produce biopharmaceuticals or reagents utilized by biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and academic research labs. Students learn to grow a variety of cells, express a biomolecule of interest, and recover the desired biomolecule through a series of purification steps. They learn to follow good manufacturing practices by maintaining records in order to comply with quality system requirements and government regulations. This certificate is designed for bioprocess-technician skill development as well as professional development for those already employed in the industry.

**Career Opportunities**

The current workforce demand for students with academic experience in biotechnology and bioprocessing is well documented. Career opportunities exist as a manufacturing technician/associate, environmental monitoring technician/associate, or documentation specialist. This certificate further ensures that the student will complete foundational courses as a steppingstone to be eligible to apply to the bachelor’s degree program in Biomanufacturing at MiraCosta.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program students will be able to successfully perform a technical laboratory task common to the biomanufacturing environment by employing the appropriate equipment and tools, safely and effectively.

**Item 3. Program Requirements**

**Certificate of Achievement in Biomanufacturing**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirements** | **Dept. Name/#** | **Name** | **Units** | **CSU-GE** | **IGETC** | **Sequence** |
| Required Core (12 units) | BTEC110(110H)BTEC120BTEC211BTEC221BTEC222 | Basic Techniques in BiotechnologyBusiness and Regulatory Practices in BiotechnologyTechnical Writing for Regulated EnvironmentsBioprocessing: Cell Culture and Scale-upBioprocessing: Large Scale Purifications | 5311.51.5 | NANANANANA | NANANANANA | Yr 1, FallYr 1, FallYr 1, SpringYr 1, SpringYr 1, Spring |
| One course (1-3 units) | BTEC107BTEC108(108H)BTEC 210BTEC292BTEC299 | Exploring Biotechnology: Emerging Trends, Careers, and the Local IndustryBiomanufacturing: From Gene to ProductData Analysis with ExcelInternship Studies Occupational Cooperative Work Experience  | 33111 | EB2NANANA | NA5BNANANA | Yr 1, FallYr 1, FallYr 1, SpringYr 1, SpringYr 1, Spring |

Required Major Total 13-15 units

TOTAL UNITS 13-15 units

Proposed Sequence:

Year 1, Fall = 8-11 units

Year 1, Spring = 4-5 units

TOTAL UNITS: 13-15 units

**Item 4. Master Planning**

The modified certificate of achievement in biomanufacturing is aligned with MiraCosta’s mission as a career and technical education program and as an effort to support the economic and educational well-being of the communities served. The modified certificate will better support students as they begin their foundational learning of biomanufacturing. Upon completion of this certificate, students may take additional classes to complete the Certificate of Achievement and AS Degree in biomanufacturing that serve as the entry point into the bachelor’s program in biomanufacturing, which will prepare them for entry-level positions in biotechnology within the region and beyond.

The bioprocess technology certificate will serve the needs of the growing biotechnology economic sector in San Diego County. As described in more detail, below, there will be significant growth in biomanufacturing positions in coming years, and MiraCosta College’s modified certificate will be well-positioned to serve this need.

Further evidence of the certificate’s alignment to the College mission is its relationship to MiraCosta’s institutional goals. The MiraCosta Community College District 2011 Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) covers ten years and consists of an Educational Plan and a Facilities Plan. Both plans are based on thorough research conducted internally and externally over two years. The CMP resulted in the MiraCosta’s adoption of institutional goals, which are intended to advance the mission of the College and address anticipated changes. The MiraCosta College Educational Plan 2016-2020 (addendum to the college’s Comprehensive Master Plan 2011-2020) contains 14 institutional objectives that describe strategies for achieving the College’s five institutional goals. The proposed certificate program in biomanufacturing is aligned with Institutional Goal I, as an innovative practice that will broaden access to higher education for students, Institutional Goal II, as an institution that maximizes student success, and Institutional Goal V, as a conscientious community partner in serving to provide students with the needed skills to participate in the growing biotechnology sector.

The Life Sciences and Biotech sector accounts for almost 60,000 jobs in the San Diego-Imperial region and about 17% of all Life Sciences and Biotech jobs in California (“Sector Analysis Highlights--Life Sciences and Biotechnology: Middle-Skills Jobs in the San Diego-Imperial Region” by the Centers of Excellence in Spring 2019). The sector is projected to grow 7% between 2018-2023 in both San Diego and Imperial Counties (Centers of Excellence 2019 Sector Analysis). The average earnings per Life Sciences & Biotech job is $127,753 making this a high-wage industry that allows students to be financially independent (“California Life Sciences Sector Report 2020” by the California Life Sciences Association).

The recent analysis by the Centers of Excellence regarding recession- and pandemic-resilient jobs in San Diego indicated that entry-level technician positions (weighers, inspectors, samplers) were resilient to both recessions and the pandemic. This modified certificate thus prepares students for employment that allows them to earn a living wage in an industry that has continued to grow despite economic and global health challenges. In the local region, there is a projected supply gap of over 1,100 graduates to fill the annual openings in middle skills positions (Centers of Excellence 2019 Sector Analysis). This provides further justification for the importance of this modified certificate to prepare students for in-demand jobs.

**Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections**

This new certificate of achievement in bioprocess technology is being used, in part, to serve as a foundation for the first two years of the B.S. in biomanufacturing, which MiraCosta College was awarded through SB850 and subsequent approval by the Board of Governors.

In preparation for the application to the Chancellor’s Office, the College’s Biotechnology Department surveyed 138 current and former biotechnology students. The results indicated 48 percent were very interested and an additional 34 percent were interested in the baccalaureate program, as illustrated below, pending more detail on course work developed in partnership with industry. Therefore, there was clear demand to support not only the new bachelor’s degree but also this new certificate. Since the launch of the BS program, we have consistently welcomed 23-30 students to each cohort, which has a maximum size of 30 students per year.

As noted in Item 4, there is a large gap of about 1,100 between employment demand for middle skills workers (1,233 openings per year) and the supply from regional colleges (61 graduates annually) in San Diego County. This supports the adequate demand for the certificate. The reports referenced above are included in the Supporting Documentation.

**Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs**

Before completing this section, review the college’s existing program inventory in the CCC Curriculum Inventory, then address the following questions:

1. Do any active inventory records need to be made inactive or changed in connection with the approval of the proposed program?

No.

1. Does the program replace any existing program(s) on the college’s inventory? Provide relevant details if this program is related to the termination or scaling down of another program(s).

No.

1. What related programs are offered by the college?

Certificate of Achievement in Biomanufacturing

**Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area**

There are no other biomanufacturing programs in the service area. The biomanufacturing program has been shown to be unique and non-duplicative of other biotechnology programs, which was a requirement under SB850. Further, this program was approved by the Region X CTE deans at their September 2016 meeting and this is included as Supporting Documentation.