Core Requirement 2.7.2

The institution offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study that is compatible with its stated mission and is based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education.

Impact Statement

Prior to the merger with Capital Area Technical College (CATC), BRCC offered certificates and associate's degrees, whereas CATC offered certificates, technical diplomas, and associate of applied science degrees. Degree programs at both colleges adhere to Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), Louisiana Board of Regents (BoR), BRCC and former CATC policies and procedures. Processes in place at the merged College include rigorous curriculum review, program review, and external advisory committee review.

Rationale

BRCC aligns its degree programs with its mission to *"identify and meet the educational and workforce needs of our community through innovative, accessible, and dynamic programs."* All programs are designed, implemented and assessed based on this principal. BRCC programs support workforce needs and economic development in Louisiana. Workforce needs are identified through partnerships with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LDED), the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), advisory committees, and program accreditation bodies. Needs assessment and workforce demand data are major factors in determining the need for a new program or the modification or deletion of an existing program.

The BoR sets standards for all institutions of higher learning in Louisiana, including BRCC and the former CATC, and defines undergraduate degrees and certificates in their Academic Affairs Policy Number 2.15 (*Figure 3.4.1.2*). LCTCS has provided direct oversight for both institutions and now oversees the merged institution. The BRCC curriculum process adheres to BoR, LCTCS and BRCC Academic Affairs Policies so that programs are appropriate to higher education. The BoR, LCTCS and BRCC Office of Academic Affairs charge faculty with the responsibility of establishing, reviewing, maintaining, and revising BRCC curricula and degree programs. The current BRCC Faculty Senate Courses and Curricula Committee is reviewing all CATC technical education curricula and programs to insure that all standards are met and that a congruent format exists. The BRCC Courses and Curricula Committee reviews all proposed program actions (to add, modify or delete) as described in the BRCC Curriculum Manual 2013-2014 (*Figure 2.7.2.1*). The current academic programs, degree requirements and residency requirements are described in the BRCC Catalog (*Figure 2.4.3*).

Programs offered at the merged institution, described below, include both ready to work and transfer degree programs.

- Associate's Degrees. The standard number of credits required for an Associate Degree is 60 hours, although in some circumstances they range from 60 to 72 hours to meet program accreditation requirements. Exceptions to the standard number of credits must be approved according to the respective System's policy. The BoR periodically reviews both the

number of credit hours required and approves exceptions to the 60 credit hour standard. BRCC offers the following types of associates degrees:

- o Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) An applied/academic degree program, with a limited general education core component, primarily designed to prepare students for immediate employment or career entry. An example is the A.A.S. in Process Technology (*Figure 2.7.2.2*).

- o Associate of Arts (A.A.) An academic degree program with a significant general education core, designed primarily to serve as preparatory education for transfer to a related baccalaureate program. An example is the A.A. in Liberal Arts (*Figure 2.7.2.3*).

- o Associate of Science (A.S.) An academic degree program with a significant general education core (27 hours), designed primarily to serve as preparatory education for transfer to a related baccalaureate program. An example is the A.S. in Pre-Engineering (*Figure 2.7.2.4*).

- Certificates and Technical Programs of Study

- o Technical Competency Areas (T.C.A.): An applied course or a series of courses (1-16 hours), the T.C.A. provides a student with a specific technical competency and serves as a curricular construct. T.C.A.'s are often combined to form a technical certificate. An example is the T.C.A. in Drafting and Design Technology (*Figure 2.7.2.5*).

- o Technical Diploma (T.D.): An applied, technical program (45-60 hours), the technical diploma often combines multiple Certificates of Technical Studies and Technical Competency Areas. An example is the T.D. in Practical Nursing (*Figure 2.7.2.6*).

- o Certificate of Technical Studies (C.T.S.): An applied, technical program (usually 16-33 hours) that provides students with a broad technical competency. An example is the C.T.S. in Computer Network Engineering (*Figure 2.7.2.7*).

- o Certificate of Applied Science (C.A.S.): A more academically-oriented offering created by combining a C.T.S. with a limited general education component (at least 9 hours). At a minimum, the general education component should be fully transferrable into any undergraduate academic program. An example is the C.A.S. in Business Technology (*Figure 2.7.2.8*).

- o Certificate of General Studies (C.G.S.): An academically-oriented offering designed to provide students with a broad foundation of fundamental academic skills, primarily for personal growth or as preparation for further collegiate study. The C.G.S. framework allows students an opportunity to tailor their courses to meet admission or pre-requisite requirements of a transfer institution. The C.G.S. is offered within the Division of Liberal Arts (*Figure 2.7.2.9*).

Faculty within the division that houses a program are responsible for beginning the process to add, modify or delete a program while following the LCTCS and BoR guidelines. The BRCC process, as defined in the Curriculum Manual (*Figure 2.7.2.1*), ensures consistency in sequencing, increasing complexity and linkages between and among program components for coherence. Existing programs are managed by a designated faculty member (Program Manager) who has expertise in the discipline and whose responsibilities include advising, conducting degree audits, monitoring the progress of students in the program, conducting the program review and collaborating with the external advisory committee. Programs must also meet the BoR Statewide General Education Requirements *(Figure 2.7.2.10)*. The BoR Master Course Articulation Matrix (*Figure 2.7.2.11*) is used to determine course transferability. In addition, BRCC has articulation agreements with 32 four-year institutions that facilitate and maximize BRCC course credit transfer (*Figure 2.7.2.12*). The sequence of approvals required for the implementation of proposed program action (addition, modification, deletion) is as follows: Department Chair, Division Dean, Courses and Curricula Committee, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Vice Chancellor of Finance (if student lab fees are requested, for example), LCTCS, and BoR, if applicable. The BoR approves all new programs that include General Education courses (*Figure 3.4.1.3*).

Existing programs are reviewed periodically by BRCC and the BoR. The annual BRCC Program Review is accomplished by a Program Review Team consisting of the Department Chair, Program Manager, faculty members within the department and one faculty member outside the department. The Office of Research, Planning, Assessment and Accountability provides program and course data from the end of the academic year. The Team reviews the data to evaluate program outcomes, identify areas of improvement and make recommendations for adjustments in the strategic plan for the program.

Supporting Documents

Figure 3.4.1.2 BoR Academic Affairs Policy 2.15
Figure 2.7.2.1 BRCC Curriculum Manual 2013-2014
Figure 2.4.3   BRCC 2013-14 Catalog
Figure 2.7.2.2 AAS Process Technology
Figure 2.7.2.3 AA Liberal Arts
Figure 2.7.2.4 AS Pre-Engineering
Figure 2.7.2.5 TCA Drafting and Design Technology
Figure 2.7.2.6 TD Practical Nursing
Figure 2.7.2.7 CTS Computer Network Engineer
Figure 2.7.2.8 CAS Business Technology
Figure 2.7.2.9 CGS
Figure 2.7.2.10 BoR Academic Affairs 2.16 Statewide General Education Requirements
Figure 2.7.2.11 BoR Master Course Articulation Matrix
Figure 2.7.2.12 BRCC Articulation Agreements with Four-Year Institutions
Figure 3.4.1.3   LTC Curriculum Development and Revision Process Policy IS1930.133