

Chapter 1

College Information

I. Brief History of the College

In 1966, the Virginia Assembly enacted historic legislation establishing a statewide system of comprehensive community colleges – the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). This legislation brought most of the Commonwealth's postsecondary education below the bachelor's level into one system and broadened the base of higher education to serve all segments of the society.

In the far southwestern corner of Virginia, a committee comprised of local business, civic, industrial and political leaders was appointed by the local governing bodies of Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive community college. In April of 1970, the College Board had its first meeting and Judge William C. Fugate was elected chair. Funds for construction were allocated by the State Board for Community Colleges and construction began in early 1971.

In August 1971, Dr. George B. Vaughan was named president of Mountain Empire Community College and groundbreaking ceremonies were held in October of that same year. The first classes were offered in the fall of 1972.

In January 1978, Dr. Victor B. Ficker became the second president of Mountain Empire.

The third president, Dr. Ruth Mercedes Smith, served from June 1988 to June 1991.

Dr. Robert H. Sandel served as the fourth president from January 1992 to July 2001.

Dr. Terrance Suarez became the fifth president in January 2002.

II. Governance

MECC, one of twenty-three community colleges comprising the Virginia Community College System, operates under policies established by the State Board for Community Colleges. The MECC College Board acts in an advisory capacity to the State Board and performs other duties as delegated by the State Board

The MECC College Board consists of fifteen members, as appointed by the governing bodies of the jurisdiction:

- 1 - City of Norton
- 1 - Dickenson County
- 4 – Lee County
- 4 – Scott County
- 5 – Wise County

III. Accreditation

Mountain Empire Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the associate degree.

Curricular programs are approved by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) and are also approved for listing in the U.S. Office of Education directories and participation in various federally-sponsored programs of student aid and education assistance. The College is authorized by the Veterans Administration to certify students to receive veterans benefits and is approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for students who receive Social Security and Vocational Rehabilitation benefits.

The Respiratory Therapy Associate Degree program is approved by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation under the American Medical Association. The Nursing Associate Degree program is accredited by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing. The Practical Nursing program is accredited by the Virginia State Board of Nursing. The Emergency Medical Services Technology Associate Degree program is accredited by the Virginia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services.

IV. Philosophy, Mission, Vision, and Values

Philosophy Statement

The underlying principle for Mountain Empire Community College is to provide knowledge, skills, and enrichment for individuals to achieve academic and personal success, and to provide special services to employers and the community through innovative, efficient, effective, and ethical responsiveness that promotes life-long learning and economic well being.

Mission Statement

Mountain Empire Community College functions within the educational community to assure that all individuals in its service area are given a continuing opportunity for the development and extension of their skills and knowledge through quality programs and services that are financially and geographically accessible.

Mountain Empire Community College provides leadership in determining and addressing both the needs of individuals and the economic needs of the College's service area.

Occupational-technical education, transfer education, developmental studies, continuing education, workforce development, and community services are the primary avenues through which the mission is fulfilled. To assure that all students have the opportunity for success, the college shall provide a comprehensive program of student development services.

Avenues For Fulfilling The Mission Statement

Occupational-Technical Education: Designed to meet the increasing demand for technicians, semiprofessional workers, and skilled craftsmen for employment in industry, business, the professions, and government. The programs are planned primarily to provide workers for the region served by the College.

University-Parallel (College Transfer Education): Includes freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences and preprofessional education and are designed for transfer into baccalaureate degree programs at four-year colleges and universities.

Developmental Courses: Prepares students who have not had the required course prerequisites for admission to specific programs and to correct deficiencies in basic areas such as English, reading, and mathematics.

General Education: A component of each academic program which encompasses the common knowledge, skills, and attitudes required by each individual to be effective as a person, worker, consumer, and citizen.

Continuing and Distance Education: Enables adults in the region to continue their learning experiences, during the day and evening hours, at on-campus and off-campus locations, and via videos, interactive television, and the Internet.

Business and Industry Training: Provides employers with a workforce competent in basic workplace skills, a pool of job applicants prepared for the workplace, customized training which reflects the goals and needs of the organization, and community support for addressing workplace needs. Four basic types of training programs are offered: customized training, quick-start training, and on-going seminars and workshops.

Community Services: The facilities and personnel of the College are available for specialized services to provide for the cultural and educational needs of the region served by the College. Designed to provide needed cultural and educational opportunities for the citizens of the region, this service includes non-classroom and non-credit programs, cultural events, workshops, meetings, lectures, conferences, seminars, and special community projects.

Vision Statements

Students

Our vision is being student focused; providing an atmosphere of caring and commitment where student aspirations, goals, high standards, and the fullest potential for life are developed and nurtured through instruction, advisement, and support services. To possess a collaborative relationship with our public schools so that students come to MECC academically prepared, with well-defined goals, and committed to their college work.

Curriculum and Instruction

Our vision is a continuously improving and student focused educational delivery system that accentuates the highest academic standards, which clearly defines the entry and exit standards for all programs, and allows for innovative delivery.

Faculty and Staff

Our vision is an involved, competent and creative work force, who are dedicated to the maintenance of ethical, harmonious and trusting relationships, and who are committed to serving customers, including each other, in a manner that demonstrates the highest standards of conduct.

Business and Industry

Our vision is providing the finest of industrial training programs utilizing the most up-to-date technology and training techniques; continuously striving to enhance our college relationship with our industrial community by assisting them with rapid responses to their needs; working with area citizens to assist them with new business development and efforts in entrepreneurship; and assisting in industrial recruitment and retention efforts in order to expand the job market in Southwest Virginia.

Image

Our vision is being recognized as a college that utilizes its resources efficiently and effectively, is focused and directed, and fully accountable for its actions; being perceived by our community as the college that provides support, is a model for standards of education, and the college to attend; and being viewed as a leader and catalyst for change in Southwest Virginia.

Processes

Our vision is processes and procedures that are efficient, effective, and totally supportive of educational delivery; well-designed, beautiful, and ample facilities, equipment, materials, and grounds that are conducive to a working and learning environment for our students, faculty and staff; and providing financial resources that recognize and encourage innovative teaching and service processes.

Values to Guide our Behavior

Honesty, Integrity, and Trust

The confidence that decisions, processes and policy are conducted fairly and ethically.

Teamwork and Communication

Open exchange of information and ideas among all areas for shared problem solving and implementation within both formal and informal settings.

Customer Focus and Constancy of Purpose

Maintaining the mission of our college and the customers we serve as the focal point throughout all of our processes.

Quality and Continual Improvement

Exceeding our customers' educational training needs and expectations through programs and services of the highest standards that are performed through continuous, planned change for improvement.

Creativity and Innovation

Recognizing and encouraging an educational environment that rewards creative work and thought by its faculty, staff, and students so they will seek to introduce and utilize new and beneficial methods of operation.

MECC DEGREE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

College Transfer Cluster

Arts & Sciences Degree Program CIP Code 24.0199

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Business Administration	216	ASA
Education	624	ASA
General Education	695	CERT
General Studies	697	ASA
Liberal Arts	650	ASA
Science	881	ASA

Business Technology Cluster

Business Management Degree Program CIP Code 52.0101

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Accounting	202	CERT
Accounting	203	AAS
Management	212	AAS

Business & Office Degree Program CIP Code 52.0401

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Administrative Support Technology	298	AAS
Clerical Assistant	218	CERT
Computer Software Specialist	222	AAS
Legal Office Assisting	261	CERT
Medical Office Coding & Procedures	285	CERT
Paralegal Studies	260	AAS
Word Processing	292	CERT

Health Technology Cluster

Emergency Medical Services Degree Program CIP Code 51.0904

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Emergency Medical Services	146	AAS

Respiratory Therapy Degree Program CIP Code 51.0908

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Respiratory Therapy	181	AAS

Nursing Degree Program CIP Code 51.1601

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Nursing	156	AAS
Practical Nursing	157	CERT

Engineering & Industrial Technology Cluster

Architectural & Construction Degree Program CIP Code 15.0101

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Welding	995	CERT

Electrical/Electronics Engineering Degree Program CIP Code 15.0399

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Computer Electronics Technology	731	AAS
Computer Networking Technology	732	AAS

Environmental Control Degree Program CIP Code 15.0599

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	903	CERT
Environmental Science	828	AAS
Forest Science	839	AAS

Engineering & Industrial Technology Degree Program CIP Code 15.0899

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Computer Aided Drafting and Design	729	AAS
Maintenance	714	CERT
Manufacturing Technology	726	AAS

Mining & Petroleum Degree Program CIP Code 15.0901

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Mining Technology Supervision	985	CERT

Industrial/Manufacturing Technology Degree Program CIP Code 15.0603

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Technical Studies	718	AAS

Public Service Technology Cluster

Protective Services Degree Program CIP Code 43.9999

Curriculum	Curriculum Code	Degree Code
Administration of Justice	406	CERT
Corrections Science	462	AAS
Police Science	464	AAS

Human Services Degree Program CIP Code 51.1599

Curriculum	MECC Code	VCCS Code
Career Studies		
Career Studies Listing		
Accounting	084	221-203-02
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	080	221-903-10
Call Center/Teleservices	059	221-212-05
Child Development	050	221-636-04,05,06
Commercial Truck Driver	077	221-279-02
Computer Software Specialist	054	221-299-00
Corrections Management & Supervision	088	221-462-88
E-Commerce	072	221-251-01
Electricity	081	221-941-01
EMT-Intermediate	070	221-146-03
Fiber Optic Technician	079	221-731-79
Forestry	018	221-328-01
Geographical Information Systems	071	221-719-71
Graphic Design	060	221-514-35
Health Services	092	221-190-01
Heavy Equipment Operator	078	221-899-34
Industrial Supervision	009	221-991-07
Information Systems Technology	017	221-299-16
Landscape Gardening	051	221-828-51
Law Enforcement Management & Supervision	089	221-463-89
Legal Office Assisting	085	221-260-01
Machinery Maintenance	052	221-985-52
Medical Records Clerk	074	221-285-73
Medical Transcriptionist	075	221-286-01
Mining Certification	055	221-985-55
Multimedia	061	221-299-24
Network & Database Administrator	086	221-732-02
Nursing Assistant	014	221-157-06
Office Automation Specialist	053	221-298-08
Personal Computing for Home & Office	069	
Pharmacy Aide	015	221-190-07
Phlebotomy	073	221-151-01,02
Photography	006	
Polysomnography	076	221-181-01
Pre-Funeral Services	091	221-155-02
Real Estate	016	221-273-01
Retail Sales and Customer Service	007	221-212-23
Sign Language	057	
Small Business Management	008	221-212-24
Software Development	087	221-299-01,02
Wastewater Plant Operator	068	221-828-67
Water Plant Operator	067	221-828-68
Welding Operator	082	221-995-01
Wildlife Enforcement	090	221-463-30
Word Processing	083	221-298-13

All Career Studies are considered certificates.