

## **Cecil College Request for Proposal**

Pursuant to COMAR 13B.02.01.022 Cecil College is soliciting proposals on the following Academic Program.

### **Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Public Health Leadership**

#### **Goal**

To establish a partnership between Cecil College and a four-year environmental public health, degree granting institution that will provide academic opportunities for existing and future students, as well as address the employment demands facing our region.

#### **Program Characteristics**

##### Overview

In partnership with a four-year institution, Cecil College will establish a "2 + 2" academic program in environmental public health. The program partner will offer a Bachelor of Arts degree compatible with the public health associate degree with a concentration in environmental public health.

Students enrolling in this program will be dually admitted to both institutions based on criteria stated in the articulation agreement. Students who complete the specified courses, degree requirements, and academic standards established by this partnership will be guaranteed admission to the four-year institution. The program will begin in the fall of 2016.

##### Design

- Coursework in the program will be offered at the North East campus of Cecil College.
- Freshmen and sophomore coursework will be delivered by Cecil College while junior and senior level coursework will be delivered by the four-year partner on the northeast campus of Cecil College.
- Partnering institution's program should include in-person coursework delivered by the four-year partner's faculty.
- Partnering institution shall provide textbook purchasing and registration services at the Cecil College site and/or electronically.
- Partnering institution shall provide access to their library resources online as deemed appropriate to meet program needs and shall ensure that all students have access to all necessary library resources for their courses.
- Partnering institution will work with Cecil College to ensure that the classroom and workshop facilities are equipped with the necessary resources for completing course requirements and hands-on-project work.
- Partnering institution shall provide tutoring support as needed.

### Alignment of the proposed program with the College’s Mission and Strategic Plan:

The proposed program is congruent with the College’s mission as it relates to providing programs that further workforce entry and advancement.

*Cecil College Vision:* Cecil College, a dynamic and dedicated center of learning that transforms lives and strengthens our community.

*Cecil College Mission:* Cecil College is an inclusive, open-access college committed to academic excellence and service to the greater region. The College provides a supportive learning environment to a diverse body of students as they build the skills and knowledge to achieve academic success, prepare to transfer, and enter the workforce. Further, Cecil College fosters intellectual, professional, and personal development through lifelong learning opportunities, the arts, and community engagement.

*Cecil College Strategic Goal 3.1:* Increase the number of four-year institutions offering bachelor degrees at Cecil College.

### Labor Market Outlook

#### National Perspective

Employment of environmental science and protection technicians is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average of 11% growth for all occupations. Heightened public interest in the hazards facing the environment, coupled with increasing demands placed on the environment by population growth, are expected to spur demand for environmental science and protection technicians.

Most employment growth for environmental science and protection technicians is projected to be in consulting firms. More businesses and governments are expected to use these firms in the future to help them monitor and manage the environment and comply with regulations.

Environmental science and protection technicians should have good opportunities for employment. In addition to openings due to growth, many job openings are expected to be created by those who retire or leave the occupation for other reasons. Job candidates with an associate’s degree and laboratory experience should have the best opportunities.

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2012	Projected Employment, 2022	Change, 2012-22	
				Percent	Numeric
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	19-4091	32,800	38,900	19	6,200

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/environmental-science-and-protection-technicians.htm> (visited November 10, 2015)

#### State Perspective

The Maryland Higher Education Commission *2013 Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education: External Environmental Trends* directs higher education entities to be “drivers of innovation” and “to support a knowledge-based economy.” According to the MD Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations, Maryland Industry Projections 2012-2022, the greatest

percentage and numbers increase in employment will occur in a handful of career clusters including environmental science and protection technicians.

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment		Openings			Education Value
		2012	2022	% Change	Replacement	Total	
Environmental science & protection technicians, including health	19-4091	610	685	12.3%	240	315	Associate's degree

Further, the Plan notes: “It is not enough to simply have more students enter and complete occupational programs, but they must have access to high-caliber and effective training that meets the evolving needs of the workforce.” This program provides students access and affordability in completing a degree incrementally, whereby they can secure employment at the associate and baccalaureate levels in an emerging industry that provides upward mobility as an individual completes each level of their education.

Service Area Perspective

*The Northeastern Maryland Region Higher Education Needs Assessment Report of 2014*, stated “The regional workforce needs, and thus the focus of post-secondary education needs are dominated by technical STEM and healthcare related fields, and the needs of the local high school systems.” The report states that workforce gaps exist for health technologists in terms of planned program availability at the associate and bachelor degree levels. Programming in environmental public health would, in part, fill this gap. Additionally, the report suggests that addressing programmatic gaps may require attracting new institutional providers to this northeastern region of Maryland.

In summary, Cecil College is taking an innovative approach to meet the workforce needs in the area of environmental public health by developing a partnership with a four-year university to provide access to the bachelor’s degree for individuals in the Susquehanna Region of Maryland as well as our extended service area of Pennsylvania and Delaware. There is immediate demand for this academic credential and it is anticipated that the demand for this program is not only prevalent in this region but extends to national employment demands.