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New Program Proposal

The following must be submitted to complete a new program request:

Submission Checklist:

☐ Business Plan (https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/)

☐ Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Plan (https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/)

Primary Contact Information

Institution: J. F. Ingram State Technical College

Contact: Dr. Julliana Probst

Title: Associate Dean of Instruction

Email: julliana.probst@istc.edu

Telephone: (334) 514-5051

Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 8/29/2025

Award Level: UG Certificate 30-60 CHrs (CER)

Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): CER

Field of Study/Program Title: Horticulture

CIP Code (6-digit): 01.0601

Administration of the Program

Name of Dean: Dr. Butch Young

Name of College/School: J. F. Ingram State Technical College

Name of Chairperson: Dr. Julliana Probst Name of Department/Division: Instructional

Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 1/5/2026

Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 12/31/2025

Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 12/31/2025

SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): NA

Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):

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Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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I. Program Description

A. Concise Program Summary (one paragraph) to be included in ACHE Agenda:

Horticulture (HOC) is a program that focuses on the general production and processing of domesticated plants, shrubs, flowers, foliage, trees, groundcovers, and related plant materials; the management of technical and business operations connected with horticultural services; and the basic scientific principles needed to understand plants and their management and care.

B. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List three (3) to five (5) strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

- The Horticulture program that incorporates greenhouses and outdoor labs for real-world projects teach students essential skills like plant propagation, soil management, irrigation, and integrated pest management.
- 2. Students gain experience that directly prepares them for immediate employment upon graduation.
- 3. Graduates can pursue a wide range of career paths, including landscape design and maintenance, nursery and greenhouse management, floristry, viticulture, and urban farming. High-paying positions are available for those with advanced degrees, such as soil scientists and agricultural teachers.
- 4. The increasing public and corporate focus on green spaces has led to a rising demand for horticultural services. Well-maintained parks, gardens, and urban green spaces are recognized for their community and environmental benefits.

C. External Support (Recommended)

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

- 1. Attached
- 2. Attached
- 3. Attached

D. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

- 1. Students will be able to identify plant vegetative and reproductive structures.
- 2. Students will understand how to propagate, plant, grow/manage and harvest vegetable, fruit and nut crops.



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- 3. Students will be able to identify soil types and how they are formed and ways to modify soil structure and drainage to reduce erosion and improve water quality and water availability to plants.
- 4. Students will understand the basic concepts of accounting, economics, marketing and management.
- 5. Students will be able to apply knowledge to solve problems related to crop production and plant growth.
- 6. Students will work with others to coordinate activities to achieve group/team objectives.
- 7. Students will have supervised, hands-on work experience in an area of horticulture.



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Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

CIP Code	Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program	Justification for Duplication
01.0601	Horticulture Technology	Wallace State Hanceville	

E. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

Nearly all new programs have some relationship to existing offerings through shared courses, faculty, facilities, etc. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes** \boxtimes **No** \square

If **yes**, please describe these relationships including whether or not the program will replace or compete with existing offerings: (**Note:** If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.)

Expanding the current Horticulture program from STCs to a CER program will not compete with existing offerings. Students will be able to take English, math, speech, and computer courses to earn a long certificate in Horticulture.

If **not**, please describe how the institution plans to support a program unrelated to existing offerings.

F. Collaboration

	within your institution (i.e., research centers, across academic divisions, Yes □ No ⊠
If yes , provide a brief	explanation of the proposed collaboration plan(s) for the program:
	other institutions or external entities (i.e., local business, industries, Yes □ No ⊠
If yes , provide a brief	explanation of the proposed collaboration plan(s) for the program:



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G. Programmatic Accreditation

Select the appropriate program accreditor from the drop-down menu below: Council on Occupational Education (COE)

Provide a detailed timeline for gaining accreditation (i.e., when will full candidacy be reached?):

Accredited since 1977

H. Professional Licensure

Will the progr definition:	am be considered a Professional Licensure Program based on the following Yes □ No ☒
designed to me	Licensure Program: As defined in federal regulations, an instructional program that is eet educational requirements for a specific professional license or certification that is apployment in an occupation or is advertised as meeting such requirements.
If yes , ple	ase explain:

Select the appropriate licensure body from the table below:

Choose an item.

Select the appropriate license from the table below:

Choose an item.

I. Professional Certification

Will students earn industry certifications while completing the degree or be prepared for industry certifications upon graduation? Yes \boxtimes No \square

If **yes**, please explain: Students will earn the National Career Readiness Credential and OSHA 10-hr General Industry Safety/Health

J. Admissions

Provide any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level. Include prerequisites, prior degrees earned, etc.

N/A



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K. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) of the program as defined in policy (i.e., in-person, online, hybrid). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

In-person

Can students complete the entire degree program through distance education (100% online) based on the following definition? Yes □ No ☒

Distance Education: An academic program for which required instructional activities can be completed entirely through distance education modalities. A distance education program may have in-person requirements that are non-instructional (e.g., orientation, practicum).

L. Instructional Site(s)

Provide the planned location(s) where the program will be delivered (i.e., main campus, satellite campus, off-campus site.) If the program will be offered at an off-campus site, provide the existing site name or submit an Off-Campus Site Request if new.

Limestone Correctional Facility

Will more than 50% of this program be offered at an off-campus site(s) Yes □ No ⊠ If **yes**, which sites?

M. Industry Need

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17.

SOC 1 (required): 19-4071.00

SOC 2 (optional): 37-1012

SOC 3 (optional): 37-3011

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/) or with emerging industries as identified by Innovate Alabama or the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA).

The Horticulture program offers practical training in horticulture production and prepares students for jobs in landscaping, nurseries, and farming. According to the Alabama Horticulture Producers, a division of Alabama Farmer's Federation, Alabama's fruit and vegetable industry has a \$161.5 million economic impact and provides 1,121 jobs. There are 167 farmers markets



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in Alabama. More than half of American horticulture farms are family or individually owned, but corporations account for three-fourths of sales.

N. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the SOC occupations selected above.

No.

O. Student Demand

Please explain how you projected the student enrollment numbers in the **Business Plan, Lines 24-27** and provide evidence to substantiate student demand (i.e., surveys, enrollments in related courses, etc.).

The projected Student Enrollment numbers in the accompanying Business Plan are based on qualitative and quantitative data. Faculty and staff associated with the Horticulture program indicated strong support from students and external stakeholders for the addition of the Horticulture Long Certificate (CER). Additionally, the proposed program expansion is also supported by members of the ISTC Horticulture Occupational Advisory Committee.

Data related to enrollment patterns for the existing Horticulture short term certificates at the Limestone Instructional Service Center were also examined. Analysis of three years of enrollment data revealed an unduplicated average enrollment of 41 students with 32 students attending full-time while nine attended on a part-time basis. The enrollment data captured in the table below reflects information pulled from the Registration Report embedded in ARGOS. ISTC projects a similar long-term enrollment trajectory for the Horticulture CER.

FA22-SU23	FA23-SU24	FA24-SU25	AVG	
36	42	45	41	Total
26	35	35	32	FT
10	7	10	9	PT



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II. Program Resources and Expenses

A. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information						
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel				
Full-Time Faculty		1		1				
ent	Part-Time Faculty							
Current	Administration							
J	Support Staff							
þ	Full-Time Faculty	4		4				
**New Be Hired	Part-Time Faculty							
* B	Administration							
2	Support Staff							
		Personne	l Total					

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review:

The low student-to-faculty ratio allows faculty to dedicate more individualized attention to students and foster strong relationships and deeper engagement with the instructional material.

Program	SU22	FA22	SP23	SU23	FA23	SP24	SU24	FA24	SP25		AVG Enroll
	Pre- consolidation	15	18	18	15	20	23	14	31	32	21

Note: Include *any new funds* designated for compensation costs (faculty, administration, and/or support staff to be hired) in the **Business Plan**, **Line 7 - Personnel Salaries and Benefits**. Current personnel salary/benefits *should not be included* in the Business Plan.

N/A



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B. Proposed Faculty Roster*

Complete the following **Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

*Note: Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

Current Faculty	y		
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Jeffrey Taylor (FT)	HOC111 Horticultural Business Management	Associate of Science in Turfgrass Management	
	HOC115 Soils & Fertilizers	LANDOPER S03B Tree & Shrub Ident	
	HOC120 Plant Propagation	PLNTSOIL S01 Intro Botany PLNTSOIL S33 Soil Mgt	
	HOC125 Turf Management	PLNTSOIL S37 Basic Factors Turf ENTOMOL S04 Insects & Rel Forms	
	HOC130 Nursery Production	FOODENGR S04 Building Planning FOODENGR S08 Drainage	
	HOC134 Introduction to Floriculture	PLNTPATH S02 Plant Disease PLNTSOIL S34 Plant Nutrients PLNTSOIL S38 Const-Mod of Turf	
	HOC135 Ornamental Plant Identification	AGRESECN S05 Bus Records &Acctg ARBORPRK S01A Prin & Pract	
	HOC137 Commercial Landscape Design	FOODENGR S01 Power Units FOODENGR S09 Irrigation	
	HOC140 Pest Management	PLNTSOIL S39 Turfgrs Physiol & Ecol PLNTSOIL S99 Placement Training	
	HOC151 Irrigation Systems	AGRESECN S08 Business Law ARBORPRK S02A Prin & Pract	
	HOC167 Golf Course Maintenance	FOODENGR S01 Power Units FOODENGR S09 Irrigation	
	HOC210 Greenhouse Management	PLNTSOIL S39 Turfgrs Physiol & Ecol PLNTSOIL S99 Placement Training	
	HOC211 Greenhouse Crop Production	AGRESECN S08 Business Law ARBORPRK S02A Prin & Pract	
	HOC216 Landscape Maintenance	FOODENGR S03 Machinery PLNTSOIL S20 Herb Paren Plants	
	HOC218 Landscape Construction	PLNTSOIL S40 Pract Turf Probs	
	HOC230 Vegetable and Orchard Crops		
Keith LaFrance (FT)	CIS146 Computer Applications	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science/Math CPS3511S COM SC Seminar CPSC2200 Intro Computer Sys CPSC1000 Intro Data Process CPSC3400 Software Engineering CPSC3200 Adv Computer Language CPSC3300 Data Structures CPSC3020 Intro File Process CPSC3202 AD Comp Language:RPG CPSC4090 Assembly Language Prog	



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Current Facult	у		
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Derrick Simerly (FT)	ENG100 Vocational Technical English	AA in Liberal Arts Master of Arts in English EN623 Shakespeare EN653 Studies in the Novel EN655 Literary Criticism EN597 ST: Native American Lit EN610W Composition Theory EN504 Anglo Saxon Language & Lit EN513 Transnational American Lit EN614 Am Literature 1945 to present EN555W Adv Creative Writing: Fiction	
Dr. Ting To Lo (FT)	MAH101 Introductory Mathematics	Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering MFAT0563 Intro Numr Anlys 1 MACA0515 Algb Coding Thry MACA0577 Combinatorial DES DSSC0677 ADV Top COMBNY DES MATH5970 Special Topics MAT550 Combinatorics	
Dr. Tony Richardson (FT)	SPC103 Oral Communication Skills	Master of Arts in Communication COMM5333 Organizational Comm COMM6433 Sem-Intercult Comm COMM6453 Influence Seminar COMM5013 Intro Grad Study COMM6970 Sem in Com Med Com COMM6323 Intl Communication COMM5003 Quantitative Resrch COMM5383 Survey-Polit Comm	
Additional Fac	ulty (To Be Hired)		
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site



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C.	Equipment
	Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program? Yes □ No ⊠
	If yes , list the special equipment and include all special equipment costs in the Business Plan, Line 8 :
D.	Facilities
	Will new facilities or renovations to existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? Yes \square No \boxtimes
	If yes , describe the new facilities or renovations and include all <i>new</i> facilities and/or <i>renovation</i> costs in the Business Plan, Line 9 :
E.	Assistantships/Fellowships
	Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? Yes □ No ⊠
	If yes , provide the number of assistantships to be offered and include all new costs for assistantships in the Business Plan , Line 10 .
	Explain the function of the Assistantships (i.e., teaching, research, etc.)?:
F.	Library
	Will any additional library resources be purchased to support the program? Yes □ No ⊠
	If yes , briefly describe new resources to be purchased and include the cost of new library resources in the Business Plan, Line 11 :
G.	Accreditation Expenses
	If programmatic accreditation was indicated above, please include all accreditation costs in the Business Plan, Line 12 and itemize and explain below:
	N/A
Н.	Other Costs

Please include all other costs incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment, in the *Business Plan, Line 13* and explain below:

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N/A



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	III.	Program	Revenue	and	Funding
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ogram Revenue and Funding
Tuition Revenue: Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the Business Plan, Line 17 . Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates? Note: Tuition Revenue should be proportional to total enrollment.
N/A
External Funding: Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)? Yes \square No \boxtimes
If yes , please include all external funding in the Business Plan, Line 18 and explain specific sources and funding below:
Reallocations: For each year will tuition revenue and/or external funding cover projected expenses? Yes ⊠ No □
If not , budget reallocation may be required. Please include all reallocations in the Business Plan, Line 19 and describe below how your institution will cover any shortfalls in any given year.

1	ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM BUSINESS PLAN										
2	INSTITUTION:	J. F. Ingram	State Techn	ical College							
3	PROGRAM NAME:	Horticulture						CIP CODE:	1.0601		
4	SELECT LEVEL:	UNDERGRA	DUATE (ASS	OCIATE)							
5	ESTIMA	TED *NEW*	EXPENSES	TO IMPLEM	ENT PROP	OSED PROC	GRAM				
,		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL		
7	PERSONNEL SALARIES & BENEFITS								\$0		
8	EQUIPMENT	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$28,000		
9	FACILITIES								\$0		
10	ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS								\$0		
11	LIBRARY								\$0		
12	ACCREDITATION								\$0		
13	OTHER COSTS								\$0		
14	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$28,000		
15	*NEW* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT										
16		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL		
17	TUITION + FEES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
18	EXTERNAL FUNDING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
19	REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
20	TOTAL REVENUES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
21			ENROLLMI	ENT PROJE	CTIONS						
22											
23		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE		
24	FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		25	27	29	31	33	35	30.00		
25	PART-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	No data	5	6	7	8	9	10	7.50		
26	TOTAL ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	reporting	30	33	36	39	42	45	37.50		
27	NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		5	10	12	14	16	18	12.50		
28	Validation of Enrollment			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			
29				LETION PR							
30	Note: Do not count Lea	d "0"s and L	ead 0 years.	in computi	ng the aver	age annual	degree com	pletions.			
31		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE		
32	DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	No data reporting	6	7	8	9	9	10	8.17		

Undergraduate Curriculum Checklist: 1. Overview 2. Components 3. Options (as required)		
1. Undergraduate Overview		
Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (N/A if not applicab The credit hours MUST match the credit hours in the Curriculum Components t	•	
Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program		
Credit hours required in General Education	12	
Credit hours required in Program Courses & Required Electives		
Credit hours in Program Options (concentrations/specializations/tracks)	47	
Credit hours in Free Electives		
Credit hours in required Capstone/Internship/Practicum		
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:	59	
Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:		
Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:	4	
Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:		
Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured work-based	YES	N
earning with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards?:		•

Undergraduate Curriculum Plan

Does the program inlcude any concentrations/ tracks/ options?
☐ ✓

If yes, please explain (i.e., define): The four short term certificates have different concentrations,

2. Undegraduate Components

Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with "Y" in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a "Y" in the WBL column.

ınternsi	hip or practicum course, please indicate with a "Y"		mn.				
Lander dans	Insert Additional Rows as Needed						
Institution:	Ingram State Technical College						
Program Name:	Hocticulture	··					
Program Level:	UNDERGRADUATE (LONG CERTIFICATE (C	,,					
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program							
Course Number	Course Name		New?	WBL?			
General Education C	Courses	Hours 12	(Y)	(Y)			
CIS146	Computer Applications	3					
ENG100	Vocational Technical English	3					
MAH101	Introductory Mathematics I	3					
SPC103	Oral Communication Skills	3					
01 0 100	Of all Communication Skills	3					
Program Courses ar	nd Required Electives	47					
HOC111	Horticultural Business Management	3					
HOC115	Soils & Fertilizers	3					
HOC120	Plant Propagation	3					
HOC125	Turf Management	3					
HOC130	Nursery Production	3					
HOC134	Introduction to Floriculture	2					
HOC135	Ornamental Plant Identification	3					
HOC137	Commercial Landscape Design	3					
HOC140	Pest Management	3					
HOC151	Irrigation Systems	3					
HOC167	Golf Course Maintenance	3					
HOC210	Greenhouse Management	3					
HOC211	Ÿ	3					
HOC216	Greenhouse Crop Production	3					
	Landscape Maintenance						
HOC218	Landscape Construction	3					
HOC230	Vegetable and Orchard Crops	3					
Program Options (ei	nter total credit hours from all options below)						
Free Electives							
Capstone/Internship	/Practicum						

Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:	59	