**2.1 The institution has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies. (Degree-granting Authority)**

***Minimum Documentation Required*** *A copy of the charter or letter of authorization from the appropriate agency/organization indicating that the institution may award the new degree programs.*

Valencia Community College is a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and is specifically designated as a public postsecondary educational institution in the Florida College System, along with any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution, serving Orange and Osceola Counties in the State of Florida (Section 1000.21(3)(bb), Florida Statutes) and (Section 1004.67, Florida Statutes).

The primary mission and responsibility of Valencia Community College, as a member institution of the Florida College System, is responding to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education, includes being responsible for providing upper level instruction and awarding baccalaureate degrees as specifically authorized by law (Section 1004.65(5)(f), Florida Statutes).

The Florida Legislature recognizes that public and private postsecondary educational institutions play an essential role in improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the state and its residents. The Legislature also recognizes that economic development needs and the educational needs of place-bound, nontraditional students have increased the demand for local access to baccalaureate degree programs. Beginning July 1, 2009, the Legislature authorized colleges to establish a first or subsequent baccalaureate degree program for purposes of meeting district, regional, or statewide workforce needs if approved by the State Board of Education (Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes).

The programs and services offered by Valencia Community College in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state university (Section 1001.60(2)(a), Florida Statutes).

Valencia Community College made application to the State Board of Education on May 13, 2010 as required by law seeking specific authorization to offer the baccalaureate degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology. The State Board of Education approved Valencia’s application as submitted at their September 21, 2010 meeting, as evidenced by (NAME OF CORRESPONDENCE OR FORMAL APPROVAL DOCUMENT linked as a PDF).