

Program Review Executive Summary

Building Construction Technology: Masonry Emphasis

Majors Reviewed:

- *Building Construction Technology: Masonry Emphasis, A.A.S.*

August 2011



The art of Masonry has been taught at Penn College since the early 1950's. Under the name Williamsport Technical Institute (WTI), Masonry was included in the Carpentry and Building Construction Technology four year program. Since then, Masonry has been included in every Carpentry trade program, certificate, and degree. There was also High School Masonry courses taught during the Williamsport Area Community College (WACC) years. The design of the Masonry courses allows them to be easily incorporated into the different trades that Penn College has to offer.

It should be noted that courses within the MN program are designated with the MCT acronym. These courses were originally written and approved in 1999. Because of the years that have passed since its inception and the need to complete a program review, the faculty immediately recognized that all course abstracts had to be reviewed to verify the program goals were being achieved in a logical sequence. All revised abstracts were submitted to the School Dean in late fall of 2010. They were forwarded to and approved by Curriculum Committee in spring of 2011, and will be incorporated into the college catalog for fall of 2011.

Careers for brick masons, block masons, and stonemasons are expected to increase by 12 percent over the 2008–18 decade in order to maintain pace with the construction of new schools, hospitals, apartment buildings, and other structures required for increased populations. Also stimulating demand for workers will be the need to build more energy-efficient industrial facilities and office buildings (some of which may require masonry construction) and to restore a growing number of old masonry buildings. Moreover, the Federal Government has indicated a need to concentrate on repairing schools and making government buildings more energy efficient, which should have a positive impact on the construction industry in general.

With a head count around 20 and FTE's approximating 20, the numbers indicate a healthy masonry program. To help increase enrollment, the department is participating in new initiatives where the instructors are involved with secondary education. In addition, graduating CB students are encouraged to enroll in the one semester masonry degree option. This latter effort has resulted in 22 students, an entire section, matriculating into the masonry emphasis for the fall 2011 semester.

The Masonry Department is moving to a newly constructed facility on the corner of Vine Ave. and Grier St. This building has more square footage to accommodate the increase in enrollment. Overall, the facilities within the structure are designed to enhance the learning and teaching opportunities for the students and the three fulltime instructors.

The masonry department has a long and distinguished tradition of performing off campus projects for the local community and on-campus projects for Penn College. Often these projects have resulted in community enhancement and monetary savings for the college. The size, scope, and hard work to finish these projects are an accomplishment few other programs can claim.

The Masonry program at Penn College is currently one of the premier masonry programs in the country. Considering the professional and seasoned faculty, a new facility, encouraging employment statistics, steady enrollment, and support from the current administration, it is obvious that the masonry program is poised to carry on into the next several decades, a rich tradition of masonry training and technical education.