

Program Review

Executive Summary

Engineering Design Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Engineering Design Technology, B.S.*
- *Engineering CAD Technology, A.A.S.*

2013/2014



A strength of the Engineering Design Technology program is the employability of its graduates. With higher than average placement rates, graduates are actively pursued by employers in a variety of market places, satisfying a broad range of employment needs.

A robust and effective assessment process, combined with support and input from an advisory committee and positive feedback from employers, validates the quality of the program and its graduates. Illustrating this point are recently attained software certifications. In Spring 2014, students earned 39 Autodesk or Solidworks certifications – the largest number achieved in the department’s history. This external validation of academic skills clearly confirms the rigor and competencies of the curriculum and its alignment with industry expectations.

A curriculum revision implemented Fall 2013 included title changes for the majors and a shift to a 3D approach for the foundational technical drawing courses. The changes address issues with first-year enrollment and retention rates, and differentiate the associate- and bachelor-degree majors from similar majors offered at other institutions.

While the department has experienced a recent increase in first-year enrollment, continued growth can be addressed through the following recommendations:

- Continue participation in Penn College Now, the College’s dual enrollment program, which is a win-win opportunity for the program and prospective students.
- In collaboration with the Transfer Initiatives office, cultivate articulations with community colleges.
- Seek ABET accreditation. While not seen as an employment requirement, the ABET accreditation, joined with the existing American Design Drafting Association endorsement of the associate’s degree, will enhance the program’s appeal and long-term viability.
- Consider development of a baccalaureate minor in the area of CAD Management and/or a professional certificate in the area of CAD.