

Program Review

Executive Summary

Collision Repair and Restoration Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Automotive Restoration Technology (RS), A.A.S.*
- *Collision Repair Technology (CR), A.A.S.*
- *Collision Repair Technician (CL), Certificate*

April 2017



The Collision Repair Technology degree and certificate are long-standing and popular offerings at Penn College. The curriculum focuses on applied technology and is accredited by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF). The Automotive Restoration Technology degree is relatively new, starting in Fall 2012. The curriculum sequence is designed to educate students to work as skilled collision repair and restoration technicians upon graduation. Some highlights unique to these degrees include a 50,000 square-foot lab space with three down-draft spray booths and four preparation decks, alignment machine, several frame machines and vehicle lifts. Courses include large hands-on lab components that focus on applied technology that supports the lectures.

Faculty continue to promote new opportunities for students to earn industry certifications through the Inter-Industry Conference on Collision Repair (I-CAR) and NATEF. The program has strong partnerships with PPG and Axalta and continues to seek and develop new industry relations. Both programs enjoy an active industry advisory board that strongly promotes the opportunities for graduates and provides program input. Automotive Restoration currently works with five Mid-Atlantic automobile museums for projects and attracts numerous vehicle donations.

Collision Repair students continue to complete in the SKILLS USA state and national competitions. Automotive Restoration students have won national first place awards with their work and participate in several Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) events.

A summary of significant recommendations follow:

- Revise Automotive Restoration curriculum for content and sequence.
- Revise Collision Repair curriculum for content and sequence.
- Seek new ways to engage alumni from Collision Repair with the intent of higher Graduate Survey participation and follow-up.
- Evaluate and purchase nitrogen plastic welder and add additional aluminum welding stations.
- Investigate a bachelor's degree in Restoration as a "2+2" that builds on the associate's degree program.
- Develop an upholstery course through Work Force Development and Continuing Education.
- Develop adult summer camps in automotive restoration.
- Continue I-CAR curriculum and student certification process for Collision Repair.