

Program Review

Executive Summary

Forestry

Majors Reviewed:

- *Forest Technology, A.A.S.*

Executive Summary

Graduates have consistently met the needs of Pennsylvania's forested resources. The "great recession" coupled with the decline of traditional student numbers and the retirements of public employees not to mention the gas play emphasis has certainly had an effect on the forest technology program.

The student demographic trend and the high cost of technical education which is compounded by recessionary pressures have contributed to making this, for the most part, a one lab section program.

Although the private sector has been slowed considerably by the recession it is interesting to note that as the DCNR retirements continue to increase coupled with the increase demands put on DCNR from gas play activities have made our graduates very attractive for state employment.

Since our student numbers have been increasing in regards to their developmental needs it is recommended that students be advised to the potential of an additional semester or two thereby increasing their successful graduation rate. Also faculty should augment their teaching strategies with a variety of techniques to aid those who have developmental weaknesses.

The kiln needs to be replaced to reflect not only newer technology but to reduce maintenance needs of the current operation. The forest technology program needs to reinforce higher levels of English skills (written and spoken) as well as those that pertain to the every-day "economics" of the business world.