Program Review
Executive Summary

Civil Engineering Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Civil Engineering Technology, B.S.*

August 2025

Pennsylvania College of Technology
A Penn State Affiliate

The Civil Engineering Technology (BCT) program at Penn College, originally developed from a two-year associate degree established in 1964, has evolved into one of only two ABET ETAC-accredited civil engineering technology bachelor's programs in Pennsylvania. While the associate-level Civil Technology (CT) and Surveying (SU) programs have been phased out due to low enrollment and limited support from industry, the BCT program remains a key offering, providing both practical and theoretical civil engineering education. Graduates are eligible for professional licensure in Pennsylvania and many other states, competing for jobs with ABET EAC civil engineering graduates.

The BCT program maintains strong alignment with the civil engineering profession through an applied curriculum, advisory committee input, and faculty with professional engineering licensure and/or advanced engineering degrees. Curriculum revisions in 2020 and 2024 have strengthened math requirements, enhanced workforce readiness, and organized coursework into the major civil engineering disciplines of geotechnical, structural, transportation, and water resources and environmental. Early results indicate improved student performance and engagement, though long-term assessment data is pending.

Recent challenges include first-year students lacking adequate math preparation and faculty shortages that have strained coverage, though a third full-time faculty hire was made for Fall 2025. Enrollment has been declining, with recent cohorts under the typical 20 students per year. Despite these challenges, program finances remain positive, aided by efficient staffing and equipment acquisitions such as drones, 3D printers, data measurement sensors, and fluid mechanics laboratory equipment. Efforts to increase the awareness of the program with the goal of increasing enrollment include faculty participation in summer programs and the development of a formal, on-site relationship with the USGS (United States Geological Survey).

Graduates enjoy high placement rates (avg. ~96%) and strong job prospects, supported by a robust civil engineering labor market with competitive salaries. The program faces competition from emerging ABET EAC civil engineering programs at smaller Pennsylvania institutions, which may attract prospective students seeking broader licensure pathways. Opportunities exist to grow enrollment and potentially transition to ABET EAC accreditation to strengthen competitiveness.