

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**UNDERGRADUATE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS  
ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Receive the accreditation report for the undergraduate Industrial Technology Programs in the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

**Executive Summary:** Four undergraduate programs in the Department of Industrial Technology underwent accreditation – Construction Management Technology, Graphics Communications, Technology Management, and Manufacturing Technology (with three options). All programs (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The programs were accredited without an interim report for the full six-year period through November 2014. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objective (1.1) to “offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Industrial Technology.** This field of study is designed to prepare management-oriented technical professionals in such areas as industrial planning, production, supply, product market research, and technical sales.
  - ➔ The *Bachelor of Science Program in Construction Management* is conceptually based; and demands that students possess a strong understanding of mathematics, science, business, architecture, engineering, liberal arts, and construction science as well as the interrelationship among these disciplines.
  - ➔ The *Bachelor of Science Program in Graphics Communication* is the study and uses of technologies for visual print and non-print communications.
  - ➔ The *Bachelor of Science in Technology Management* prepares students to be management-oriented professionals in production and related service industries.
  - ➔ The *Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Technology* offers three options to “manage people, materials, processes and equipment in technical, managerial, or service careers in manufacturing environments and related industries.” The three options include Automation and Production, Design, and Metal Casting.
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met national standards for its development and evaluation.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Technology, formerly called the National Association of Industrial Technology.
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-studies prepared by the Industrial Technology Undergraduate Programs contained the responses to the appropriate standards required by the accrediting body – philosophy and objectives; major program(s); instruction; faculty; students; administration; facilities and equipment; computer systems; financial resources; library services; support personnel; placement services; industrial advisory committee(s); educational innovation; and assessment.

- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In April 2008, the visiting team determined that the undergraduate Industrial Technology Programs met the requirements for accredited status, although there were three standards that were in partial compliance for all programs and options.
  
- ◇ Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.
  - ☑ “There is much industry support for the programs as evidenced by donations, scholarships, and grants and contracts. Follow-up studies of employers show satisfaction with graduates.”
  - ☑ “The application of mathematics and science principles is appropriately applied in all programs and options. All programs and options make extensive use of computers.”
  - ☑ “Efforts are made on the part of UNI personnel to insure that programs are developed, revised, and evaluated to insure relevancy. There is a good balance between theory and practice.”
  - ☑ “The admission and retention standards for the programs are appropriate and support both high academic standards and student success.”
  - ☑ Based on student, faculty, and alumni comments, advising and other student services work very well.”
  - ☑ “The department is fortunate in having its own ‘in house’ Student Recruitment and Academic Services Coordinator who works closely with the career center.”
  - ☑ “Outcomes assessment results are used to improve the program.”
  
- ◇ Standards in Partial Compliance.
  - ☑ “The team found no evidence that assessment measures used to advance students through the programs are made available to prospective students.” *The results of the student outcomes assessments have added value to student advising related to job opportunities. The University has specific grade point average requirements for students to continue in good standing. Available information is shared with students through departmental advising. The department has a dedicated office/person for student advising and assistance. The department intends to make this information available to students before they experience difficulties and as a stimulus to engender greater academic efforts. Making prospective students aware of the standards will also clarify University expectations. The advising staff will review and revise the department website during Summer 2009 to address further the concerns noted by the Visiting Team. The University advertises the programs as being NAIT accredited; this accreditation supports the credibility of the programs.*
  - ☑ “Only seven out of 18 faculty members’ résumés included industrial experience. For some faculty members, the industrial experience listed was five or more years ago.” *Consultation with faculty members revealed that the Visiting Team did not see the full vitae of the faculty members, only an abbreviated version as requested. Therefore, this standard is now in full compliance.*

- ☑ “There was no evidence presented for approximately half of the faculty that they had engaged in significant scholarly activity in the past five years.” *With new leadership in the department, increased scholarship activities are being stressed to the faculty. The department has begun a new seminar series that highlights existing scholarly success and focuses on the need for expansion in this area. Incentives for more scholarly activities will be evident as merit funds are dispersed. The expectation is that increased focus on scholarship will become apparent in the next academic year.*
- ☑ “The visiting team could not find evidence that statistics related to placement rates and salary levels are made available to prospective students. They are available to varying degrees to students in the program.” *There is a need to provide statistics related to placement rates and salary levels to prospective students. Currently, broad information on placement and salaries is available through the UNI placement office. Related information regarding professional salaries is available on the Internet. The department is in the process of developing an Internet-based survey of graduates that will provide examples of key businesses that hire graduates and the generic salary levels received by graduates. The results of the survey will be available on the department website when it is revised during Summer 2009.*
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In December 2008, the National Association of Industrial Technology awarded accreditation to the undergraduate Industrial Technology Programs with options at UNI for a six-year period through November 2014. Information about the accredited programs is listed on the Association’s website.