

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

UNDERGRADUATE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS
ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report for the undergraduate Technology Programs in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

Executive Summary: Six undergraduate programs in the Department of Technology underwent accreditation – Graphic Technologies, Technology Management, Construction Management, and Manufacturing Technology (with three options – Advanced Manufacturing, Design, and Metal Casting). 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 for the full six-year period through November 2020 without an interim report required. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities for “access, affordability, and student success; educational excellence and impact; and economic development and vitality.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of Technology Programs.** 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 individual programs are described below.
 - The *Bachelor of Arts Program in Graphics Technologies* includes electronic and traditional printing, publishing, packaging, digital imaging, computer graphics, website development, digital photography, printable electronics, and related areas.
 - The *Bachelor of Arts in Technology Management* offers a broad range of studies in manufacturing, management, and industry.
 - 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 in Manufacturing Technology* prepares students for careers in the application of modern technology to the design and manufacturing of products, consumer goods, and services. Students can choose from technical concentrations in automation and production, computer-aided drafting and design, and metal casting.
 - The automation and production concentration gives special emphasis to the content areas of manufacturing processes, production management, and computer-aided manufacturing.
 - In the computer-aided drafting and design concentration, students receive training in engineering analysis, product research and development, as well as mathematics, science, computer programming, manufacturing management, industrial materials, and processes.
 - The metal casting program includes program activities that range from conventional green sand molding to near net shape solidification processing.

- ◇ Purpose of Accreditation. An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.
- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting bodies are the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) and the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications (ACCGC).
- ◇ Review Process. The self-studies prepared by the Technology Undergraduate Programs contained the responses to the appropriate standards required by the accrediting body – program title, mission, and general outcomes; competency identification and validation; transfer course work; identification of competency measures; program structure and course sequencing; student admission and retention standards; student enrollment; administrative support and faculty qualifications; facilities, equipment and technical support; program goals; program operation; graduate satisfaction with program; employment of graduates; job advancement of graduates; employer satisfaction with job performance; graduate success in advanced programs; student success in passing certification exams; advisory committee approval of program; and program responsibility to provide information to the public.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In April 2014, the ATMAE visiting team determined that the undergraduate Technology Programs met the requirements for accredited status, although there was one standard that was in partial compliance regarding program structure and course sequencing. The ACCGC visiting team determined that the Bachelor of Arts Program in Graphic Technologies met the requirements for accredited status although the team had concerns about four standards – Mission Statements and Learning Outcomes; Competency Alignment and Outcomes Assessment; Curriculum; and Faculty.
- ◇ Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ☑ “UNI and the Department of Technology have had policies in place since 1976 to ensure that coursework transferred to the programs is evaluated and approved by program faculty.
 - ☑ The programs have employed leading faculty in their disciplines. The department chair and program coordinators are highly qualified to administer ATMAE accredited programs.
 - ☑ The Graphics Technology curriculum reflected current industry practices, and will provide students with degree outcomes that will make them employable in a rapidly changing industry.
 - ☑ The University of Northern Iowa has been a source of teacher/educators for many Graphic Communications programs across the United States. The Doctor of Technology has been accepted as the terminal degree, and there are few institutions that provide the terminal degree for this discipline.”

- ◇ Standards in Partial Compliance.
 - ☑ “Graphic Technologies and Technology Management are in partial compliance with the required minimum semester hour credits in mathematics with Graphic Technologies requiring three credit hours and Technology Management requiring four credit hours. All programs/options are in partial compliance with the required maximum semester hour credits of 36 in technical. The visiting team found that Construction Management requires 51 credit hours, with 11 of them applied toward the required General Education credits; Graphic Technologies requires 38 credit hours; Management Technology, which includes options Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Design Management Technology, and Metal Casting Technology, requires 42 credit hours; and Technology Management requires 42 credit hours.”

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In November 2014, the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering awarded accreditation to the undergraduate Technology Programs with options at UNI for a six-year period through November 2020. Information about the accredited programs is listed on the Association’s website. The Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications encouraged the university to review the observations reported for the four standards in partial compliance for the Bachelor of Arts Program in Graphic Technologies and work to meet the level of expectancy for each standard.