

# Montana University System

## PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: Montana State University – Northern

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Program Years: 2009-2010

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### List of the programs reviewed:

Automotive Technology (Auto Body)

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### Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

Enrollments and Graduation rates in the Auto Body program have been on a steady decline for some time. Graduates of the program have little success in job placement at a pay rate that is substantially different from an untrained person off the street.

It is recommended to place the Automotive Technology (Auto Body) program in moratorium beginning in the Fall of 2010, and to terminate the degree program the following year.

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### Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Majors (for fall of the year indicated)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Auto Body	12	6	14	16	14	9	7
Graduates (for academic yr. ending in May)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	5	4	9	2	8	3	1

There seems to be little or no future in continuing the Auto Body program based on the expense of the program and on the placement and enrollment data.

# Montana University System

## PROGRAM REVIEW

**Institution:** Montana State University – Northern

**Program Years:** 2009-2010

**List of the programs reviewed:**

Design Drafting Technology BS, AAS, and minor

**Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:**

Enrollments in the program have been fluctuating for many years. Since 2008 the number of graduates has remained fairly constant though low. The Design Drafting Technology program has courses that serve other majors, such as Civil Engineering Technology, Welding, and Plumbing.

The Design Drafting Technology program has not utilized an advisory committee for several years because we felt the committee we had was ineffective. A new committee will be established.

**Design Drafting Technology Recommendations:**

1. Continue the program on the Havre Campus with a targeted recruiting plan to build growth in the programs.
2. Work is in progress to form articulation agreements with such schools as:
  - a. Butte COT
  - b. Bozeman COT
  - c. Billings COT
  - d. Portland Community College
  - e. Spokane Community College
3. Build stronger partnerships with High School Teachers and Industry

**Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.**

Majors (for fall of the year indicated)					2007	2008	2009	
Design Drafting Technology					24	17	17	
Graduates (for academic yr. ending in May)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Associate	11	6	5	1	3	2	2	1
Bachelors	12	7	8	2	8	3	2	3
Minor	0	2	1	3	2	1	0	2

MSU-Northern's Design Drafting program is one of very few Bachelor degrees in the U.S. The Bachelor's prepares students to enter the workforce ready and able to move up the ladder into a management position. Our graduates have had a 100% placement into a Design Drafting career. One problem that we have, which is a great one, is that we have more jobs than graduates. Employers like our graduates because they have a diverse knowledge of all areas of drafting.

One of our main problems for our low enrollment is that almost every University, College and COT now has some kind of drafting program. Many of the two year graduates are finding jobs and do not see the need for a four year degree.

# Montana University System

## PROGRAM REVIEW

**Institution:** Montana State University - Northern

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**Program Years:** 2009-2010

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**List of the programs reviewed:**

Plumbing Technology

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**Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:**

Enrollment and graduate numbers in the program have gradually increased and graduates have enjoyed success in obtaining apprenticeships with Plumbing Contractors. Many of the graduates of the program are sitting for and successfully obtaining their Montana State Journeyman's Plumbing Licenses.

Years	07	08	09	10
Plumbing Technology Graduates	6	4	9	13

**Advisory Board Recommendations:**

1. Continue the program on the Havre Campus with a targeted recruiting plan to encourage growth
  2. Offer a one year Certificate in Plumbing Technology
    - a. Combine existing courses to distribute credit loads for the one year Certificate
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**Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.**

Majors (for fall of the year indicated)	2007	2008	2009	2010
Plumbing Technology	14	21	19	20
Graduates (for academic yr. ending in May)	2007	2008	2009	2010
	6	4	9	13

Based upon the review of program assessments, the Plumbing Technology Advisory Board has concluded that some minor changes should be made to the Plumbing Technology Program. The main findings are that a one year certificate should be made available to the students in this program. In the spring of 2010, the Plumbing Technology Program of Study had two freshman level students leave the program because of Apprenticeship opportunities. By offering this Certificate, it creates an easier transition to an approved Apprenticeship and the Montana Department of Labor & Industries, and determines what credits can be allowed for the class work while at MSU-Northern. It is suggested that the certificate should be a 30-credit Departmental/COTS certificate and work should be completed to advance the certificate to a Board of Regents one year certificate degree. Other suggestions that the advisory board made are to combine many of the 1 and 2 credit classes. This would allow more contact time and additional lab experiences and each semester contain nearly an equal number of

credits. By moving Plumbing 250 to the fall semester it would give the students an introductory boiler class as a pre-requisite for the other Hydronic Heating Classes. This would allow a more in-depth study in the classes Plumbing 260/270/280/285. The focus of the plumbing 270 class would also shift to the class concentrating on installing modern hydronic heating components.

Assessment efforts such as analyzing student work experience questionnaire forms, the class end exams that are relative to the State's journeyman Exams, employer questionnaires, manufacturer's representative certifications, and the student evaluation of the instructor, must continue. Maintaining the close contact that MSU-Northern has with the Plumbing Technology Advisory Board, plumbing and heating contractors throughout the state, the State of Montana Department of Labor and Industry, and of course the students, is crucial to the continued success of the Plumbing Technology program.