Montana University System

PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Helena College University of Montana**

Program Years: **AY 2019-20 to AY 2023-24**

List of the programs reviewed:

- CNC Machining

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

- The Academic Program Review Committee and Dean's Cabinet recommend the continuation of the CNC Machining program.

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.

CNC Machining

Credentials: AAS CNC Machining, CAS Manual Machining, AAS Metals Technology (joint with IWMF program)

The CNC Machining Program has valuable partnerships, a supportive advisory board, impressive equipment, and a strong reputation, including recent praise for their curriculum and graduates from the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Faculty carry out assessment and change curriculum as necessary, both in response to advisory board feedback and what they observe in the classroom and lab. Of note is a new class project focused on interpersonal and professional communication among peers. Although a full program is preferred, the enrollment is trending positively and is in line with other schools offering similar programs.

The program plans to focus on increasing enrollment to meet market demands, a common priority for all of the college's skilled trades programs. This program is also hoping to replace some aging large equipment to stay current and aligned with industry standards.

Program data on next page

CNC Machining	AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023	AY 2024	5-Year Average
Program capacity	30	30	30	30	30	30
Unduplicated annual enrollment (headcount)	26	15	13	13	20	**17**
Percent program capacity	87%	50%	43%	43%	67%	**58%**
Average annual FTE	23	10	9	9	20	**14**
Program course completion rate	87%	96%	87%	93%	90%	**91%**
Retention rate (Fall to fall)	57%	75%	50%	80%	75%	**67%**
Degrees/certificates awarded	18	13	12	15	27	**17**
150% graduation rate	20%	48%	57%	75%	50%	**50%**

Montana University System

PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Helena College University of Montana**

Program Years: **AY 2019-20 to AY 2023-24**

List of the programs reviewed:

- Diesel Technology

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

- The Academic Program Review Committee and Dean's Cabinet recommend the continuation of the Diesel Technology program.

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.

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

Credentials: AAS Diesel Technology, CAS Diesel Technology

As with many of our skilled trades programs, the value to our communities is apparent in the feedback from the advisory board and firsthand observations from faculty. Given the period of low enrollment currently faced by the program, the instructors acknowledged the importance of collaborating across campus to recruit more students. The diesel technology program faculty have done a great deal of work to ensure students are prepared to enter the industry, including updating curriculum and equipment. Keeping equipment current will be a challenge as materials costs rise and initial investments can be significant. The program is responding to this challenge by working on a 5-year plan for equipment replacement and upgrades.

- Note: The Diesel Technology academic program review began in AY 2023-24 but was completed in AY 2024-25.

Program data is on next page

Diesel Technology Program Overall	AY 2019	AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023	5-Year Average
Program capacity	30	30	30	30	30	**30**
Unduplicated annual enrollment (headcount)	38	34	27	23	15	**27**
Percent program capacity	127%	110%	90%	77%	50%	**91%**
Average annual FTE	43	36	27	22	13	**28**
Program course completion rate	95%	90%	92%	96%	100%	**95%**
Retention rate (fall to fall)	94%	87%	90%	36%	100%	**81%**
Degrees/certificates awarded	14	13	7	14	8	**11**
150% graduation rate	64%	58%	63%	33%	90%	**62%**

Montana University System

PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Helena College University of Montana**

Program Years: **AY 2019-20 to AY 2023-24**

List of the programs reviewed:

- Industrial Welding & Metal Fabrication (IWMF)
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Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

- The Academic Program Review Committee and Dean's Cabinet recommend the continuation of the Industrial Welding & Metal Fabrication program.

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.

INDUSTRIAL WELDING & METAL FABRICATION (IWMF)

Credentials: AAS Industrial Welding & Metal Fabrication, CAS Welding Technology, AAS Metals Technology

The program has demonstrated value to the institution and community with enrollment consistently nearing capacity, impressive 150% graduation rates, and solid partnerships. The program's efficiency with finances is also noted, especially the significant savings gained from the donation of a gas blending system.

Faculty hope to use strong industry partnerships as a recruitment tool. They'd like to see a second first-year cohort added back into the program offerings. It would allow the program to have competitive entrance requirements for the second year of the welding program and would also provide more opportunities to obtain their AAS in Metals Technology. Faculty also plan to develop a long-term equipment replacement list to facilitate planning for large purchases.

Program data on next page

IWMF Program Overall	AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023	AY 2024	5-Year Average
Program capacity	30	30	30	30	30	**30**
Unduplicated annual enrollment (headcount)	28	25	29	32	26	**28**
Percent program capacity	93%	83%	97%	107%	87%	**93%**
Average annual FTE	29	28	28	28	27	**28**
Program course completion rate	98%	97%	99%	89%	96%	**96%**
Retention rate (fall to fall)	81%	78%	100%	86%	86%	**86%**
Degrees/certificates awarded	25	15	26	20	19	**21**
150% graduation rate	61%	67%	81%	78%	67%	**71%**