

Montana University System

PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Great Falls College Montana State University**

Program Years: **AY2019/2020 - AY2023/2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

- Computer Programming Associate of Applied Science
 - Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science
 - Cybersecurity Certificate of Technical Studies
 - Dental Assistant Certificate of Applied Science
 - Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science
-

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

- **Computer Programming Associate of Applied Science**
- **Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science**
- **Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science**

The above three programs received a recommendation ***for continuation with expectation for sustained performance.***

- **Dental Assistant Certificate of Applied Science**

The program review committee recommended the above program ***for continuation with modification as outlined by the Program Director.*** However, mainly due to lack of enrollment, the decision was made in August 2025 to place this program in moratorium effective Fall 2025. OCHE was notified August 19, 2025.

- **Cybersecurity Certificate of Technical Studies**

The program review committee recommended the above program for ***discontinuation.*** The decision to terminate the program effective Summer 2025 was made March 7, 2025. OCHE was notified March 25, 2025 and OCHE approval was received May 7, 2025.

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Program Years: **AY2019/2020 - AY2023/2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Computer Programming Associate of Applied Science

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

The program received a recommendation for *continuation with expectation for sustained performance*.

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.

The Computer Technology department streamlined their offerings from four programs to two: Cybersecurity and Programming. This strategic decision concentrated resources and efforts, and allowed students to focus on these two critical workforce areas. As a result, students are now filtering into these two areas more effectively, which has enhanced the overall quality and depth of their learning experiences.

Program snapshot data, a written report, program director presentation, and a question-and-answer session between the program director and Program Review Committee revealed the following:

- There has been increased awareness of the program, which has helped attract more students. Efforts to promote the program through various channels have paid off, resulting in higher visibility and interest.
- In the Programming track, a comprehensive review of the course outline and sequencing is being done to accommodate current industry needs.
- The Program Director has managed resources and the budget to address the needs of the stakeholders.
- The Program Director is actively working with the Advisory Board and faculty members to assess the needs and determine the best options to meet industry standards and practices.

Recommendations:

- Examine the success rates for enrollees and define what constitutes success within the program.
- Advertise on the website that the exam costs are covered by the college.

Computer Programming Associate of Applied Science Enrollment and Graduation Data 2017/18 – 2023/24							
Academic Years	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Enrollment	43	28	29	17	22	19	35
Graduation	4	4	7	5	1	1	4

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List of the programs reviewed:

Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science

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

The program received a recommendation for ***continuation with expectation for sustained performance.***

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.

The Computer Technology department streamlined their offerings from four programs to two: Cybersecurity and Programming. This strategic decision concentrated resources and efforts and allowed students to focus on these two critical workforce areas. As a result, students are now filtering into these two areas more effectively, which has enhanced the overall quality and depth of their learning experiences.

Program snapshot data, a written report, program director presentation, and a question-and-answer session between the program director and Program Review Committee revealed the following:

- There has been increased awareness of the program, which has helped attract more students. Efforts to promote the program through various channels have paid off, resulting in higher visibility and interest.
- The Program Director has managed resources and the budget to address the needs of the stakeholders.
- The Program Director is actively working with the advisory board and faculty members to assess the needs and determine the best options to meet industry standards and practices.

Recommendations:

- Examine the success rates for enrollees and define what constitutes success within the program.
- Advertise on the website that the exam costs are covered by the college.

Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science Enrollment and Graduation Data 2017/2018– 2023/2024							
Academic Years	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Enrollment			16	18	21	22	26
Graduation				1	2	4	2

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Program Years: **AY2019/2020 - AY2023/2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Cybersecurity Certificate of Technical Studies

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

The program received a recommendation for **discontinuation**. The decision to terminate the program effective Summer 2025 was made March 7, 2025. OCHE was notified on March 25, 2025 and OCHE approval was received on May 7, 2025.

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.

The recommendation and ultimate decision to terminate this program were based on the following information from program snapshot data, a written report, program director presentation, and a question-and-answer session between the program director and program review committee.

The classes prepare students to take industry-recognized exams, which is what the industry is looking for, but a certificate or degree is not required to take the exams. The Certificate of Technical Studies in Cybersecurity was not entirely stackable and the industry did not recognize the value of the certificate.

Cybersecurity Certificate of Technical Studies Enrollment and Graduation Data 2017/2018– 2023/2024							
Academic Years	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Enrollment			1				
Graduation			1				

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PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Great Falls College Montana State University**

Program Years: **AY2019/2020 - AY2023/2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Dental Assistant Certificate of Applied Science

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

The program received a recommendation for ***continuation with modification as outlined by the program director***. However, there were zero applicants for AY2025-2026; therefore, the decision was made in August 2025 to place this program in moratorium effective Fall 2025. OCHE was notified August 19, 2025.

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.

Sustained enrollment and degree production in the program have been ongoing concerns. The program has tried various methods to increase enrollment including becoming an option for students in other locations through the OneMSU system, establishing a bridge to the Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science, and offering courses for non-credit through the college's Career & Technical Education division.

Dental Assistant Certificate of Technical Studies Enrollment and Graduation Data 2017/2018 – 2023/2024							
Academic Years	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Enrollment	10	9	8	9	8	3	0
Graduation	9	7	8	5	6	2	0

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Program Years: **AY2019/2020 - AY2023/2024**

List of the programs reviewed:

Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science

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

This program received a recommendation for *continuation with expectation for sustained performance*.

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.

This program received a recommendation for continuation with expectation for sustained performance based on program snapshot data, a written report, Program Director presentation, and a question-and-answer session between the Program Director and Program Review Committee. Below is a summary of that information for the Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science.

- Enrollment in the Dental Hygiene AAS program has increased significantly over the past year. Average annual FTE has increased as a result of this positive trend and retention rates have remained robust. Stakeholders, including community members, external entities and legislators recognize the need for this program and support its success.
- The program plans to graduate 33 students in May 2025, which is a 65% increase in the number of degrees granted over a one-year span for the program. This increase in enrollment also translates to an increase in employed graduates for the state of Montana.
- The Program Director has been working diligently on program promotion and raising awareness of the new, state-of-the-art dental space at the college.

Recommendations:

- There are no specific recommendations at this time.

Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science Enrollment and Graduation Data 2017/2018 – 2023/2024							
Academic Years	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Enrollment	34	34	36	37	45	46	56
Graduation	15	16		33	21	22	20

There were no graduates in 2019/2020 due to COVID. The 17 students who would have graduated in spring 2020 did graduate in summer 2020.