

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: MSU-Great Falls

Program Years: 2010-2011

List of the programs reviewed:

- Collision and Refinishing Technology Certificate of Applied Science
 - Medical Transcription Associate of Applied Science
 - Medical Transcription Certificate of Applied Science
 - Physical Therapist Assistant Associate of Applied Science
 - Radiologic Technology Associate of Applied Science
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Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

Please see attached.

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.

Please see attached detailed Program Review Overviews.

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **MSU-Great Falls**

Program Years: **2010-2011**

List of the program reviewed:

Collision and Refinishing Technology Certificate of Applied Science

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

In spring 2011, a decision was made to place the Collision and Refinishing Technology CAS program into moratorium. This decision was based on three factors: 1) Job placement rates were not sustainable. Recent graduates were getting jobs; however, the statewide employment forecast and local advisory board both indicated high placement rates are not sustainable. 2) It was extremely difficult to recruit and retain qualified collision repair faculty when they can make significantly more in a local auto body shop. 3) Program costs were higher than most other division programs. 4) The MSU-Billings COT program can provide sufficient graduate numbers to meet workforce needs in the state of Montana.

The College reallocated the resources formerly used for Collision and Refinishing Technology to enhance the institution's budding Sustainable Energy Technician 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.

Prior to the decision to place the Collision and Refinishing Technology CAS program into moratorium, the Internal Program Review Committee made these observations:

Alignment with Community Needs

The program was well supported in the community and demonstrated excellent partnerships with local businesses. Rural areas are also well served by this program.

Student Participation and Success

Prior to last year's redesign of the program, students struggled to complete the AAS. Based upon advisory board input, the program was modified to a CAS (2009-2010), and while enrollments rebounded some, the workforce market did not support the type of wages or job openings that could be sustained over the long-term – as described above. (See Table 1.)

Programmatic Student Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes were based on advisory board input and current industry technology and standards.

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Achievement of the Eight Abilities (MSU-Great Falls' institutional student learning outcomes)

The faculty and staff at MSU-Great Falls have deemed the following abilities to be central to the personal and professional success of all graduates: Communication; Quantitative Reasoning; Inquiry and Analysis; Aesthetic Engagement; Diversity; Technical Literacy; and Critical Thinking. The program complied with requirements of the MSU-Great Falls' Outcomes Assessment Team and incorporated the College's institutional student learning outcomes, the Eight Abilities, into the curriculum – prior to the moratorium.

Curriculum and Instruction

The hands-on curriculum was designed to prepare students for current industry technology. The most recent changes (2009-2010) in the curriculum responded to student needs for the program. A program is offered at MSU-Billings COT and appears to be sufficient to meet the demand for the Montana workforce at this time.

Faculty

The current and former program director redesigned the curriculum for the Collision Refinishing Technology CAS program. However, current industry pay is significantly higher than the lead instructor salary, which made it difficult to hire excellent, qualified faculty. When the program director resigned to return to a position in the industry, securing a qualified faculty member was problematic. This was a big factor in the decision to place the program in moratorium.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

The cost for this program was quite high per student because of a large general operations budget and safety costs. This was another significant determinant of the moratorium.

Table 1: Enrollments and Graduations 2004-2010 – Collision Refinishing Technology CAS

Year	Program Enrollment	Number of Graduates
2003-04	26	0
2004-05	35	4
2005-06	28	5
2006-07	31	5
2007-08	15	5
2008-09	16	0
2009-10	30	3

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **MSU-Great Falls**

Program Years: **2010-2011**

List of the programs reviewed:

Medical Transcription Associate of Applied Science/Certificate of Applied Science

Decisions concerning the future of the programs, based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

The Internal Program Review Committee at MSU-Great Falls recommended continuation of the Medical Transcription AAS and CAS programs.

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.

There was concern over the low graduation rates for both the CAS and AAS, so the Internal Program Review Committee required the Program Director to create a plan to increase graduation rates and report to the Committee and the Chief Academic Officer by January 2012. That plan is currently under development.

Additional observations made by the Committee include:

Alignment with Community Needs

A change in the medical transcription field involves the out-sourcing of hospital and clinic jobs to national online companies. While this definitely changes the look of the workplace, it creates viable jobs for many rural graduates. The Committee felt this was a plus for the Great Falls region. Also, it believed the continuation of the programs would be supported with the improvement plan in place. Individuals in this profession may benefit more from on-the-job training delivered in partnership with industry. The Internal Program Review Committee will keep a close eye on this trend as it relates to the program improvement efforts in the upcoming academic year.

Student Participation and Success

Enrollment has risen and remained strong over the past five years, particularly in the AAS program (Note: the CAS curriculum is embedded in the AAS program, therefore there are often CAS and AAS students in the same classes during the first year). However, graduation rates remain fairly low. The Program Director will identify variables around the low success rates in this program. (See Table 2.)

As stated above, the Program Director will be required to create a plan to increase graduation rates and report to the Committee by January 2012.

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Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes were appropriate and current for the field. While employer satisfaction surveys were limited, all reporting employers were very satisfied with the graduates of this program.

The Committee applauded the addition of an online advising room as a very positive choice for this program and believed stronger advising might help increase graduation rates and cohort success.

Achievement of the Eight Abilities (MSU-Great Falls' Institutional Student Learning Outcomes)

The faculty and staff of MSU-Great Falls have deemed the following abilities to be central to the personal and professional success of all graduates: 1. Communication. 2. Quantitative Reasoning. 3. Inquiry and Analysis. 4. Aesthetic Engagement. 5. Diversity. 6. Technical Literacy. 7. Critical Thinking. 8. Effective Citizenship. The program has complied with requirements of the Outcomes Assessment Team and has incorporated the College's institutional student learning outcomes, the Eight Abilities, into the curriculum.

Curriculum and Instruction

The Program Director has been proactive in adopting the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (ADHI) model curriculum in response of future certification requirements.

Faculty

The decision to hire a half-time program director to support existing faculty was a positive step. This may very well help to increase graduation and retention rates for the program. The Committee determined it was important for the Program Director to attend at least one annual conferences or regional training to stay current in the field.

Table 2: Enrollments and Graduations 2004-2010 – Medical Transcription AAS/CAS

Year	Program Enrollment	Total Graduates	AAS Graduates	CAS Graduates
2003-04	54	6	1	5
2004-05	46	8	2	6
2005-06	52	8	2	6
2006-07	65	12	8	4
2007-08	59	18	11	7
2008-09	62	11	5	6
2009-10	58	12	9	3

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PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: MSU-Great Falls

Program Years: 2010-2011

List of the program reviewed:

Physical Therapist Assistant Associate of Applied Science

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

The Internal Program Review Committee at MSU-Great Falls recommended continuation of the Physical Therapist Assistant AAS 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.

There was discussion about raising the possible student intake numbers; however, the faculty and Internal Program Review Committee agreed the best course at this time was to maintain current student numbers. Rationale for that decision was focused upon the brief time the program has been out of moratorium and back in operation. The Committee decided the best course of action was to continue to track this well-supported and high-quality program through another year and then encouraged the Program Director to analyze the program's capacity. The Internal Program Review Committee will request a follow-up with the Program Director at the end of the academic year 2011-2012.

Additional observations made by the Committee included:

Alignment with Community Needs

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited program addresses the needs of Great Falls and the surrounding region, especially considering new regulations in the field. The program was determined to be well-connected and well supported by local health care providers.

Student Participation and Success

The program is extremely successful considering the brief period it has been operating. Currently, the program is at or near full enrollment capacity. (See Table 3.)

Student Learning Outcomes

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Learning outcomes are based on annual graduate and employer surveys. The graduates are prepared to sit for the registry certification, and the program currently has an impressive 100% pass rate on the licensure exam.

Achievement of the Eight Abilities (MSU-Great Falls' Institutional Student Learning Outcomes)

The faculty and staff of MSU-Great Falls have deemed the following abilities to be central to the personal and professional success of all graduates: 1. Communication. 2. Quantitative Reasoning. 3. Inquiry and Analysis. 4. Aesthetic Engagement. 5. Diversity. 6. Technical Literacy. 7. Critical Thinking. 8. Effective Citizenship. The program has complied with requirements of the Outcomes Assessment Team and has incorporated the College's institutional student learning outcomes, the Eight Abilities, into the curriculum.

Curriculum and Instruction

Recent changes to the program application process will make it fairer and insure full capacity.

Faculty

Faculty demonstrates excellent attention to professionalism and student outcomes.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

The costs for this program are somewhat skewed because it is relatively new (just out of moratorium for a short period of time). The first program director was hired for accreditation purposes prior to any student intake. That year, the program director had to redesign the curriculum and seek accreditation for the program. It is anticipated the cost per student and graduate will continue to decrease before leveling off again.

Table 3: Enrollments and Graduations 2004-2010 – Physical Therapist Assistant AAS

Year	Program Enrollment	Number of Graduates
2003-04	1	2
2004-05*	n/a	n/a
2005-06	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a
2007-08**	6	0
2008-09	17	5
2009-10	29	12

* program was placed into moratorium.

** program was redesigned and brought out of moratorium.

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: MSU-Great Falls College of Technology

Program Years: 2010-2011

List of the program reviewed:

Radiologic Technology Associate of Applied Science

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

The Internal Program Review Committee at MSU-Great Falls recommended continuation of the Radiologic Technology AAS 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.

The Internal Program Review Committee made the following observations of the Radiologic Technology Program:

Alignment with Community Needs

The program is well-supported in the community and demonstrates an excellent partnership with Benefis Health Systems. In-field placement and salaries are excellent.

Student Participation and Success

While there is some attrition in the pre-program, most students who begin the actual program graduate. Table 4 includes both pre-program and program students.

Student Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are based on annual graduate and employer surveys. The graduates are prepared to sit for the registry certification, and the program currently has a 100% pass rate on the exam.

Achievement of the Eight Abilities (MSU-Great Falls' Institutional Student Learning Outcomes)

The faculty and staff of MSU-Great Falls have deemed the following abilities to be central to the personal and professional success of all graduates: 1. Communication. 2. Quantitative Reasoning. 3. Inquiry and Analysis. 4. Aesthetic Engagement. 5. Diversity. 6. Technical Literacy. 7. Critical Thinking. 8. Effective

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Citizenship. The program has complied with requirements of the Outcomes Assessment Team and has incorporated the College's institutional student learning outcomes, the Eight Abilities, into the curriculum.

Curriculum and Instruction

The curriculum is designed to prepare students for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam. Recent changes in the curriculum responded to student needs for the program.

Faculty

The Radiologic Technology Program director is an experienced instructor who responds to the changes and priorities in the field.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

The cost to the College for this program is minimal because it is strongly subsidized by Benefis Health Systems. This is the least expensive program in Health Sciences at the College when calculated per student.

Table 4: Enrollments and Graduations 2004-2010 – Radiologic Technology AAS

Year	Program Enrollment	Number of Graduates
2003-04	n/a	n/a
2004-05	n/a	n/a
2005-06	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a
2007-08	10	0
2008-09	27	12
2009-10	19	10