

Program Review

Executive Summary

Automotive Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Automotive Technology Management, B.S.*
- *Automotive Service Sales & Marketing, A.A.S.*
- *Automotive Technology, A.A.S.*
- *Automotive Service Technician, Certificate*

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Pennsylvania
College of Technology
A Penn State Affiliate

The automotive technology program has a historically rich tradition of excellence as one of the oldest programs at the College and one of the oldest automotive instructional programs in the nation. The degree and certificate programs are popular offerings at Penn College, focusing on applied technical skills needed by industry. The automotive program is accredited by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) and the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). The lab facility has been expanded to include 10 lab areas. The curriculum follows industry standards, with an extensive hands-on approach.

Strong industry partnerships continue to support the program and provide emerging industry professional development and insight. Vehicles, equipment, tools, and curriculum are also provided through beneficial partnerships with local, regional, and national stakeholders. The automotive technology program receives guidance from active industry advisory boards that have a direct and relevant vested interest in the program, faculty, staff, and students. Our growing partnerships provide graduating students opportunities for growth through employment and relationships.

Beyond the classroom, the automotive technology students compete in SkillsUSA events on the state and national levels, as well as the annual Green Grand Prix, where Penn College has earned numerous awards for its electric vehicle work. The Baja SAE Club has also been successful at various events.

Recommendations from this program review for the automotive technology program's majors of Automotive Technology Management (BAU), Automotive Service, Sales & Marketing (AK), Automotive Technology (AU), and Automotive Service Technician (AM) include:

- increasing donations or the purchase of other late-model original equipment manufacturer (OEM) vehicles and shop equipment;
- revising curriculum and instruction based on a review of outcomes assessment to include course sequencing;
- expanding programming to embrace the electric vehicle (EV) segment;
- increasing program enrollments through purposeful recruiting and marketing, with a focus on non-traditional and under-represented groups;
- increasing secondary-school interactions through continued visitation/presentations, on-campus events, and increased communication;
- exploring strategies for increased student success in the technical coursework; and
- expanding Penn College Dual Enrollment opportunities for automotive courses with high school programs of distinction.