

Program Review

Executive Summary

Engineering & Industrial Design Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Engineering Design Technology, B.S.*
- *Industrial Design, B.S.*
- *Engineering CAD Technology, A.A.S.*

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Pennsylvania
College of Technology
A Penn State Affiliate

The Engineering & Industrial Design Technology (EIDT) department has developed collaborative and engaging programs to prepare students for the growing needs of the diverse engineering and industrial design industries. Each of the majors in the department—Engineering Design Technology B.S. (BEN), Engineering CAD Technology A.A.S. (EN), and Industrial Design B.S. (BIX)—have aligned their curriculum and program goals to prepare students with the industry-specific skills they need to enter the workforce upon graduation. This approach is in step with the College’s mission of preparing the next generation of industry leaders.

Department faculty actively engage their students outside of the classroom. Faculty advise student organizations such as Student Wildcats of Robotic Design (SWORD), the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), and the Student Chapter of the Society of Inventors and Mad Scientists (SIMS), as well as host industry events like the SolidWorks® User Group. These activities provide opportunities for students to build relationships and connections that assist in their personal and professional growth.

Cultivating industry partnerships continues to be a priority of the EIDT department. These partnerships are key to developing ideas to strengthen curriculum and future internship and employment opportunities for students. Faculty support the College’s efforts to introduce prospective students to the opportunities our programs offer. Faculty have been involved in multiple Pre-College Programs, skills competitions, Dual Enrollment visits, science fairs, and more.

Through the program review process, faculty have identified several ways to sustain and grow their programs:

- pursue Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET): Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) accreditation for the Engineering Design Technology degree;
- investigate National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation for the Industrial Design degree;
- revise the Engineering Design Minor to improve the timeline for students to complete required coursework;
- increase efforts to establish articulation agreements with community colleges where Computer Aided Design (CAD) programs align well with EIDT bachelor’s degrees;
- continue ADDA endorsement of the Engineering CAD Technology degree;
- continue to explore a distance learning option for the final two years of the Engineering Design Technology degree;
- plan off-site recruitment visits, with support of Admissions staff, to key high schools and career & technical centers;
- participate in other key recruitment events organized by the School or College, where applicable;
- develop a professional certificate in the area of CAD; and
- collaborate with other academic departments, School administrative staff, and College Relations to explore updated testing, additive manufacturing, and virtuality reality equipment to support required course and program outcomes.