

Program Review

Executive Summary

Collision Repair and Restoration

Majors Reviewed:

- *Collision Repair Technology, A.A.S.*
- *Collision Repair Technician, Certificate*
- *Automotive Restoration, Certificate*

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Pennsylvania
College of Technology
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The collision repair program has a rich tradition of program excellence, sharing a common history with the automotive program. The degree and certificate programs are popular offerings at Penn College, focusing on applied technical skills needed by industry. The collision repair and restoration programs are accredited by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) and the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CARS). The lab facility spans a 50,000-square-foot space with three down draft automotive paint spray booths and four preparation decks, alignment machines, frame machines, and vehicle lifts. 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, national, and international stakeholders. The collision repair and restoration program receives guidance from active industry advisory boards, who have a direct and relevant vested interest in the program, faculty, staff, and students. Partnership provides graduating students with opportunities for growth through employment and relationships.

Beyond the classroom, the collision repair students compete in SkillsUSA events on the state and national levels. The restoration students are participating in various local, state, and national car shows through the Antique Automotive Club of America (AACA), where they have earned numerous awards for their restoration work, most recently the 2015 First Senior Award at the Charlotte Motor Speedway AutoFair in North Carolina with a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle Super Sport.

Recommendations from this program review for the collision repair and restoration programs include:

- revising curriculum and instruction based on a review of outcomes assessment to include course sequencing;
- increasing program retention through purposeful instructional and support efforts for student success;
- 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; and
- developing a more consistent and relevant certification program in collision repair and restoration.