

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REVIEW

*Western Nevada College
Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Mechanics*

I. Description of Program Reviewed

The Automotive Mechanics Associate of Applied Science program offers students an opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and technical theory for successful careers as automotive mechanics. Students obtaining this degree will have completed courses of a very technical nature, chosen to complement each other and provide breadth and depth of diagnostic and repair skill abilities necessary to work in a service facility. Individuals who are already employed in the automotive mechanics field are able to upgrade their knowledge through this program.

II. Review Process and Criteria

A consultant was hired with Perkins State Basic Grant funds to assist program faculty, administrators, and advisory committee members through the rigorous process of gaining initial program certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) through the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). This fall, WNC will again use basic grant funds to hire a consultant to help develop I-CAR collision training and hybrid technologies instruction.

This process involved:

- Submission of an application packet that included a self-evaluation summary demonstrating how the program met each of the ten ASE standards related to purpose, administration, learning resources, finances, student services, instruction, equipment, facilities, instructional staff, and cooperative agreements.
- NATEF review of the application to determine whether the program was qualified for an on-site evaluation.
- Formation of an evaluation team consisting of an Evaluation Team Leader selected by NATEF and four team members from industry who were not associated with the program as advisory committee members, former instructors, or program graduates in the last ten years.
- Submission of an application for the on-site evaluation that included course syllabi, task lists and sequences of instruction for each service area, a list of training materials, and a sample evaluation form used to track student progress.
- An on-site evaluation of all ten standards that took place over two consecutive days while students were in class.
- Receipt of certification May 2009 through 2014 in four service areas: Brakes; Electrical/Electronic Systems; Engine Performance; and Suspension and Steering.

III. Major Findings and Conclusions of the Program Review

The following are major strengths of the program that were identified during the review process:

- Although the full-time faculty coordinator for the program retired in the midst of the certification process, program faculty (full-time and part-time), administrators, and advisory committee members remained dedicated to the successful completion of the certification process.
- WNC is committed to hiring a full-time program coordinator in spite of the current budget problems.

- The Automotive Mechanics program is the first occupational program at WNC to receive certification or accreditation.
- The College is committed to hiring ASE certified full- and part-time instructors, consistent with NATEF standards.

The following are program areas that were in need of improvement and the actions taken (shown in italics):

- Some courses did not meet certification standards in terms of mandated instructional hours and lab time.
Core courses in the four service areas were changed from three to four credits, and additional lab hours were added in order to meet standards.
- Not all tools and equipment were of the type and quality found in the repair industry.
More than \$80,000 in state and grant funding was allocated to the purchase of tools and equipment that met industry quality standards.
- Very few students are graduating with this degree.
To improve student retention and program completion, changes have been initiated, including curriculum changes, improved scheduling efficiency, and the practice of hiring only ASE certified instructors.

IV. Descriptive Statistics

A. Number of students with declared major in the program area:

2008-09*	33
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B. Number of graduates from the program for the following years:

2006-07	1
2007-08	2
2008-09*	3

C. Headcount of students enrolled in any course related to the program (duplicated):

Fall 2008	64
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* Does not include summer 2009.