Program Review Final Report

for

Computer Information Technology

Submitted to

Dr. Eric McKeithan, President (and serving as interim Vice President of Instruction)

by

Program Review Committee Chair:
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education

Program Review Team:
Melissa Watson, Lead Instructor Computer Information Technology
Pat Hogan, Business Technologies Department Chair
Josh Padgett, Vocational Department Chair
Dick Bowie, Welding Technology
Shawn Russell, Engineering Department Chair
Greg Vandergriff, Lead Instructor Computer Engineering Technology
Jan Fazzari, Institutional Researcher
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant to the VP of Institutional Effectiveness

Signatures:
Lead Instructor:
Instructional Dean:
I. List of Team Members

Melissa Watson, Lead Instructor Computer Information Technology
Pat Hogan, Business Technologies Department Chair
Robert Philpott, Dean Technical/Vocational Education
Josh Padgett, Vocational Department Chair
Dick Bowie, Welding Technology
Shawn Russell, Engineering Department Chair
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II. Analysis of Results:

A. Strengths

Program enrollment is strong and steady with good diversity in the program.

The CIT program is responsible for teaching CIS 110 and CIS 111 courses which supports all programs within the college. Guidelines have been written and put into place and the lead instructor meets twice a year with all faculty teaching these courses to make sure the content and structure is consistent for all classes and to foster a positive culture within the program.

The graduation rate is consistent.

The program offers an AAS degree and a certificate which provide ample opportunity for students.

Instructors are enthusiastic, professional and talented, and participate in professional development activities to remain current in their field.

The Advisory Committee is active and very supportive of the program.

Equipment and software are up-to-date. A replacement schedule is in place which keeps the program current with employment trends.

Lead instructor worked with Information Technology Services and NC State University to create a virtual learning lab which is an asset for online students. Students are able to login to the learning lab and use programs for assignments. This eliminates the need for
the student to purchase the software applications for their home computer and therefore saves the student money.

On the Graduating Student Opinion Survey, 91% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the quality of the program. The remaining 9% omitted the question and could not be counted.

On the Currently Enrolled Student Survey, most student comments indicated they are enthusiastic about the program, 81.8% of respondents indicated they are satisfied with the quality of instruction and the overall program. The remaining 19.8% expressed some dissatisfaction with the program.

Most of the program objectives in Strategic Planning on Line (SPOL) are student learning outcomes and assessments for the objectives are be made by individuals other than the instructor responsible for the outcome.

B. Weaknesses

Adjunct faculty for CIS 110 are hard to find because of the 18 credit hour requirement for faculty who teach college transfer courses.

C. Opportunities

Even though there are no formal articulation agreements East Carolina University and UNC Charlotte are receptive to our CIT students transferring into their programs in order to obtain a bachelors degree.

Threats

Software changes so rapidly within the industry that budget constraints could prevent the purchase of new software during the next budget cycle.

Adjunct faculty are used in the program because of the large number of CIS 110 and CIS 111 courses that are needed to support all of the programs in the college. It is hard to find adjunct faculty who have the 18 credit hour requirement for teaching college transfer courses.

CIS 110 and CIS 111 are taught on both campuses. This presents a challenge to the lead instructor to make sure all faculty are kept informed and have all the support they need for instruction to remain consistent for all students. This is done by email and phone and through semester in-service training.

III. Committee Recommendations

The team recommended that the college:
Continue program with recommendations.

Continue to stay up to date with equipment and software by requesting needed equipment and software at the annual budget hearings.

Continue to seek qualified adjunct faculty to help with the teaching load in the program.

The lead instructor is commended for the excellent job she does in keeping the program up to date, creating a positive culture for those working within the program and for her constant attention to changes and opportunities in the industry.

Review again in five years.