Program Review Final Report

for

Chemical Technology

Submitted to

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

by

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

Program Review Team:
Tracy Holbrook, Chemical Technology Lead Instructor
Kim Lawing, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Shawn Russell, Engineering Department Chair
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant Institutional Effectiveness
Josh Padgett, Vocational Department Chair
Jacqui Jenkins, Marine Science Instructor
Matthew Thomas, Career and Job Placement Specialist

Signatures:

Lead Instructor: [Signature]

Instructional Dean: [Signature]
I. List of Team Members

Tracy Holbrook, Lead Instructor
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education
Kim Lawing, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Shawn Russell, Engineering Department Chair
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant Institutional Effectiveness
Josh Padgett, Vocational Department Chair
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II. Analysis of Results:

A. Strengths

Enrollment is consistent. The enrollment cap is 14 students. Full-time enrollment has increased and part-time enrollment has decreased. This is healthy for the program.

Instructors are enthusiastic, professional and knowledgeable and involved in numerous professional development activities to stay current in the field.

Lead instructor actively seeks employment opportunities for students and posts them on the bulletin board outside his office.

Current students attend career days at the local high schools with instructors to demonstrate experiments. This helps increase exposure of the Chemistry Technology program and helps prospective students overcome the fear of chemistry which may lead to increased enrollment.

Curriculum has been updated and revised. Changes have been approved and will take effect fall 2009.

On the Graduating Student Opinion Survey, a majority of graduates indicated they were satisfied with the quality of the program.

On the Currently Enrolled Student Survey, a majority of students indicated they are satisfied with the quality of instruction and the overall program.
B. Weaknesses

Poor participation by the Advisory Committee.

Prospective students fear of technology.

C. Opportunities

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

If the program could acquire a Mass Spectrometer and new high performance liquid chromatographs (HPLC) more types of tests, such as testing for heavy metals, could be run enhancing the student’s exposure to current technology and employability. Some of the equipment could be shared with the Marine Technology program for water analysis.

This Chemistry Technology program is the only one of its kind in the state, which puts it in a unique position for growth potential.

The program is not currently accredited by an outside accrediting body. Accreditation by the American Chemistry Society could raise the status of the program.

The poor participation of the current members of the Advisory Committee provides an opportunity to restructure the Advisory Committee with more enthusiastic and engaged members, and an opportunity to diversity the membership.

D. Threats

The program is a two year technical program and there are no formal articulation agreements which allow graduates to transfer into a four year program to acquire a bachelor’s degree without starting over. East Carolina University, in a recent development, will allow Chemistry Technology graduates to transfer into their Industrial Technology with a Concentration in Bioprocesses Controls program. This is a working relationship and not a formal agreement.

The Chemistry Department within Arts and Sciences asks Chemistry Technology to either allow them to run water samples on their equipment or for the Chemistry Technology faculty to run the samples for them. This increases wear and tear on the equipment and to eliminate use by untrained individuals the Chemistry Technology faculty runs the samples for them.

Budget constraints will likely prevent the purchase of new, updated equipment for the program in the next budget year.
Budget constraints may limit supplies which would in turn limit the number of experiments the students will be able to perform thus limiting their hands-on experience.

Weak economy may have a negative effect on program enrollment.

III. Committee Recommendations

The team recommended that the college:

**Continue program with the following recommendations**--

Seek additional Advisory Committee members for a more active and diverse committee.

Investigate the requirements for the American Chemistry Society Accreditation.

Investigate the possibility of adding a concentration on Regulatory Compliance to the program.

Investigate collaboration opportunities with Marine Technology program.

Submit requests for equipment needs during the annual budget process.

Continue recruitment efforts so that enrollment continues to increase.

Continue dialog with select universities regarding agreements which would allow graduates of the program to transfer into their four year program to acquire a bachelor's degree without starting over. (Keeping in mind not to enter into any articulation agreement on behalf of the program/college that would require CFCC to hire faculty with credentials at a higher level than what is currently required.)

Lead instructor should continue to keep the Career and Testing Services personnel updated on the businesses/agencies that employee program graduates for surveying purposes, as well as job placement purposes.

**Commendation**: Instructors are commended for their professionalism, leadership and participation in professional development activities to stay current in their field.

Follow-up report due in 2010 addressing recommendations.

Review again in 2014.