

# Program Review

## Executive Summary

---

### **Welding**

Majors Reviewed:

- *Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology (BWE), B.S.*
- *Welding Technology (WA), A.A.S.*
- *Welding (WE), Certificate*

2013 / 2016

---

**Pennsylvania  
College of  
Technology**

PENNSTATE



Supported by a common set of core classes, the B.S Welding & Fabrication Engineering Technology (BWE), A.A.S Welding Technology (WA) and Certificate Welding (WE) cover the most common welding and cutting processes used in the welding industry today. Students graduating from these programs, which have been a corner stone in the educational foundation of this institution since the 1950s, are actively recruited by employers in varying market places across the country.

Enrollment trends in the Welding program have shown a marked increase since 2010, with a waitlist being necessary since that same period. Positive placement rates at or near 100% over the last several years contribute to the enrollment increase. With high enrollment, positive placement, and retention and graduation rates above the College average, the desire for Penn College Welding graduates in all three degrees is growing.

An expected 15% increase in need of skilled welders through 2020 continues to drive the enrollment push, with welding-related professions bringing some of the highest starting salaries and annual earning potentials in the industry.

In a recent shift, a larger percentage of welding students are enrolling or transferring into the four-year BWE degree. This shift resulted in the need to increase the number of sections of 300- and 400-level welding courses being offered, which has also impacted the demands on the welding lab and available space.

The renovation of Lab E in the welding lab will allow for an increase of 15 incoming first-semester students and 15 incoming third-semester students (PCNow (dual enrollment), POS (SOARS), or transfer students). This lab renovation will also allow some flexibility to offer courses out of the standard "spring only" or "fall only" sequence, which was not always feasible with the prior lab space limitations.

Maintaining quality programs through the assessment process as well as in conjunction with the Welding Advisory Committee has been instrumental in the success of these programs.

The future of the Welding program centers on growth and development; enrollment increases have necessitated lab growth and an increase in the number of course sections required, which, in turn, requires increases to the faculty pool. The advancement and diversity of the welding market is dictating growth in curriculum to better prepare graduates for the opportunities in a more technologically diverse work place.