

Program Review

Executive Summary

Landscape/Horticulture Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Landscape Horticulture Technology:
Landscape Emphasis, A.A.S.*
- *Landscape Horticulture Technology:
Plant Production Emphasis, A.A.S.*

2015-2016

**Pennsylvania
College of
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Opportunities for Landscape/Horticulture Technology: Landscape Emphasis (LE) and Horticulture/Landscape Technology: Plant Production Emphasis (LP) continue to be positively impacted by the recovering economy. Traditional industry support and requests to partner with these majors continue to grow and have fostered new relationships.

Landscape/Horticulture Technology enjoys strong industry support in terms of equipment, but keeping the latest technology in the labs remains a focus of faculty/staff and administration, who continue to seek ways of recycling older equipment to meet industry standards.

These majors have a dedicated and active advisory board that offers technical advice on curriculum and equipment donations. Many advisory board members recruit and hire program graduates. As opportunities arise, new members join the board and expand its collective knowledge base.

Landscape/Horticulture Technology: Landscape Emphasis is accredited through the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) and received its last full accreditation in 2009. The next reaccreditation visit will be during the 2016/2017 academic year. This is the only horticulture program in the state to hold this accreditation.

Faculty and student work with the hydroculture garden and composting operation at the Earth Science Center continues to be a highlight of the program. Vegetables are grown during the academic year and used by dining facilities on campus. Pre-table scraps from the dining units are used in the composting operation. The compost, in turn, is used to amend the soil in the arboretum at the Earth Science Center.

A recent collaborative project resulted in Penn College being designated a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. This project involved the Horticulture, Forestry, and General Services departments and has an ongoing advisory committee with commitment from administration to continue maintenance improvements to campus.

Job outlook for these majors continues to grow as evidenced by the number of employers attending Penn College's Career Fair and on-campus recruiting events as well as using the Career Hub to hire graduates.

Recommendations identified through this program review are as follows:

- Expand course options for students in the Plant Production Emphasis.
- Continue to explore revisions to course titles to reflect the industry trends and increase students' ability to recognize courses that cover plant production topics.
- Explore increasing the plant production growing area and identify strategies for growing plants over the summer and winter seasons to show the full production cycle.
- Build upon the existing tool and equipment holding.
- Develop strategies to continue expanding enrollment in both LE and LP majors as well as to increase retention.
- Increase efforts to promote 2+2 options to students.
- Seek accreditation for the LP program or initiate a third-party review to ensure program relevance and quality.
- Continue to perform meaningful outcomes assessment to evaluate how well the program is meeting course objectives, program goals, and college goals.