

Proposal Summary

Temporarily Suspend Admission to the AAS Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology Major at the Trumbull Campus

1. Provide a rationale for the suspension of admission of the program.

The associate degree in mechanical engineering technology has been offered at the Trumbull Campus for more than 40 years. However, the program has had fairly low enrollments in recent years. Further, the graduation numbers and completion rates at the campus have been extremely low, indicating that most students who start the program do not finish it and opt to switch to another major or leave the campus. In the past eight years, only 26 students, total, have graduated with the degree at the Trumbull Campus; most semesters have seen one or no graduates. The last graduates were three students in spring 2016.

The retirement of one of the two full-time program faculty members leaves only one faculty member supporting the program at the Trumbull Campus. Given the cost of hiring another faculty member and investing in new equipment needed to keep the program current, the Trumbull Campus does not have the resources to sustain the program with the current and projected enrollments.

The Regional College plans to inactivate the program for fall 2019 on the Trumbull Campus. The suspension time will allow the college time to work with current students while not enrolling new students.

At one time, the degree program was offered at several campuses, including Ashtabula (1969-2012), Salem (1970s-1998) and Tuscarawas (1970s-present). The program will continue to be offered at the Tuscarawas Campus. There are 59 students declared in the program at Tuscarawas currently.

2. Indicate number of students currently enrolled in the program and describe how the suspension of admission will affect them. Explain plans for notifying current students and assisting them in the completion of their program.

As of spring 2018 15th day census, there were 21 students declared in the major on the Trumbull Campus. Two of those students are on track to graduate at the end of spring 2018. Campus advisors will provide remaining students with a two-year plan to finish their degree at the Trumbull Campus. The Trumbull Campus still will have a full-time faculty member to teach the coursework to students needing to finish the program within that two-year time frame. Students also will have the option of taking major courses on-ground (and some online) at the Tuscarawas Campus.

3. Describe whether there will be a loss of faculty or staff positions due to the suspension.

There have been two full-time faculty members supporting the program at the Trumbull Campus. One is retiring at the end of spring 2018. The second full-time faculty member will be needed to teach students finishing the program in the next two years.

After all the currently enrolled students who actively pursue the degree and graduate, that faculty member could continue to teach service courses in other programs at the Trumbull Campus or teach online courses to be taken by students in the program at the Tuscarawas Campus.

- 4. Indicate if any of the program's courses that will not be offered due to the suspension are used by other units for their programs (either as required or elective). Provide evidence that those units have been consulted regarding the offerings.**

Through the suspension period, all MERT courses required in the program will continue to be offered at the Trumbull Campus. As the Mechanical Engineering Technology associate degree program will continue to be offered at the Tuscarawas Campus, all MERT courses will continue to be offered at that campus for the foreseeable future.

- 5. Describe the plan for communicating the suspension of admissions.**

Admission counselors will be notified of the suspension, and the program will be removed from admission applications for the Trumbull Campus. The University Catalog will continue to list the program with a notation that admission is suspended at the Trumbull Campus.

Current Trumbull students will be notified of the suspension and future inactivation of the program.

The remaining faculty member in the program has been informed in person of the plan to close the program at the Trumbull Campus. Closure of the program also has been discussed at Trumbull Campus Faculty Council meetings.