

Program Review – Annual Program/Discipline Update
Administrative Response and Follow Up
2020-2021

Program/Discipline: Aviation Maintenance

SAC Chair(s): Anders Rasmussen

SAC Administrative Liaison: Cheryl Scott

Other Division Dean(s):

Department Chair(s): Thomas Laxson

Date: August 6, 2021

Administrative Response

Thank you to the Aviation Maintenance SAC for the hard work, dedication and service your entire faculty team and staff provide to Portland Community College and the many Community Partners you support throughout the District. Thank you for helping the college with many of the reopening processes that needed to be implemented during the pandemic. You went above and beyond expectations and kept your humor in times of extreme stress.

This Administrative Response will:

1. Address your strengths and successes of the program as evidenced by the data, your analysis and your reflection.
2. Provide areas of challenge or concern.
3. Address your reflection on goals and resources.
4. Recommendations for your next steps.
5. Additional comments and questions.

1. Aviation Maintenance SAC strengths and successes of the program as evidenced by the data, analysis and reflection:

The AMT program at PCC is among the leaders in the nation for student completion and success.

Enrollment in the program continues to be at or above capacity (20 students or more).

The advisory committee is active and provides helpful information to the faculty regarding the industry. Partners include Horizon (Alaska), Delta, Boeing, and Hillsboro Aero Academy.

An example of recent feedback from the committee includes the identification of a critical skills gap in "Safety Wiring." To address this deficiency, the faculty are now emphasizing this in their curriculum. As a further follow-up, the same employer noted that the students who are interviewing for employment are now performing significantly better on their job interview skills test.

Students who graduate from the program and are hired by industry frequently obtain jobs that pay them not only a living wage, but a wage that equates to more than 4 times the entire tuition cost of the 2-year program.

The AMT program is piloting an Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality teaching modality. This will bridge the gap between the more advanced technologies.

2. Aviation Maintenance SAC areas of challenge or concern, if any:

The Aviation SAC has a concern regarding the Writing prerequisites for their program. The FAA mandates that Aviation Maintenance applicants "be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language." There have been times when students have struggled in this area, especially when comprehension is essential. Reviewing the prerequisites for writing and then making a change, should be helpful for future students.

The Aviation Maintenance SAC has noticed a trend in the lower passing rate for AMT 101. Analysis of the data shows that this is a one-credit course open to anyone taking classes at the college. Many students are not interested in Aviation Maintenance, but need a one-credit course to make their load for the term.

3. Reflection on goals and resources:

The APU (Part B) of the review only had two items listed in the resources request. One was for additional software. Please work on finding a price for this software and forward it to your dean. The second resource request was for faculty and had already been funded and they are in the process of being recruited and hired. The expectation in the future would be to ensure that the numerous resources that need to be upgraded for your program are included on the resource request and also on the division list.

4. Recommended next steps:

After hiring and training additional faculty, work toward adding the 5th cohort of students to the program. This will help industry by providing more educated and trained technicians available to work in the field.

Consider asking students how they became aware of the Aviation Maintenance program at Portland Community College. Document this information so it is available for future planning and marketing.

Review the current writing prerequisites and change them as appropriate.

Advocate for an ability to track students after graduation to ensure they are learning the skills needed to be successful in their field.

Continue to successfully pass the annual External Accreditation by the Federal Aviation Administration, Portland Flight Standards District Office.

The SAC should continue with the plans to start an advanced avionics program. This has been in the plan for several years and was derailed by the pandemic. This training will be essential to meet the needs of industry and an excellent career opportunity for the students.

Continue to meet with Human Resources regarding the pay discrepancy between industry and the college. There has been over a 50% turnover in faculty in this program. Part of it can be attributed to the lack of a reasonably competitive compensation package.

Add program equipment needs throughout the year to a division spreadsheet to ensure items too expensive for the program budget are reflected on the ASU (Part B).

Proceed as planned on program review schedule

Follow up conversation needed with SAC, Dept Chair(s) and Dean

5. Additional comments/questions:

The Learning Assessment Council noted that the SAC did not complete a 2019 - 2020 report. The SAC has indicated that they need to assess learning following the pandemic in order to provide the needed information to the LAC. Once the program has fully reopened and their courses are no longer experimental A & B (where the lab and lecture parts are separated), the SAC will resume submitting the Learning Assessment reports.

Thank you for the hard work and dedication to PCC students, faculty and staff. This past year has not been an easy one. Thank you!