



Canadian Technology Accreditation Board

TRIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT

Reference number: RA #11-55

Educational Agency: Vancouver Island University

Program: Forest Resources Technology

Review Date: August 16, 2011

Accreditation Level: Technologist

National Reviewer: Pirie Elliot, RPF, ASCT

Provincial Reviewer: Norm Shaw, RFT, ASCT

Recommendation:

- a) that the program continue to be accredited for **three** years and report back on March 1, 2014
- b) that a site visit is required to verify changes made and confirm compliance
- c) that the program submission is incomplete and additional information is required
- d) that the program no longer qualifies for national accreditation

National Reviewer's Signature

August 25, 2011

Date

Canadian Technology Accreditation Board

Triennial Review Report - 2011



Letter of Introduction

Does the letter clearly describe the changes made to the program since the last CTAB review?

Yes No

Comments: Program has made minor changes to better utilize faculty skills and time constraints.

Previous Accreditation Report/Audit

Does the current report address the requirements of the previous accreditation report/audit?

Yes No If no, please explain.

Comments: As noted in previous review, course outlines must continue to require improvement. Outlines should state learning outcomes that reflect higher order thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Previous finding has been corrected in our opinion.

Major Competency Areas <i>(as listed in previous CTAB report)</i>	New Program Strengths NTB Reference # / Key Words	Course Code
1. RR08 – Forest Measurements	1. RR01 – Forest Measurement	FRST 211**
2. RR09 – Forest Operations	2. RR02 – Forest Operations	FRST 262
3. RR10 – Forest Protection	3. RR03 – Forest Protection	FRST 352
4. RR11 - Silviculture	4. RR04 - Silviculture	FRST 233
5. RR12 – Resource Planning and Mapping	5. RR06 – Ecological Systems	FRST 234

Review team recommends that FRST 212 be considered the appropriate course to represent Forest Measurements program strength as was the case in previous reviews.

Review of Table 1 – Program Matrix and Table 2 – Profile Table

Are the Tables substantially complete?

Yes No If no, please explain.

Comments:

Is Part 1 - General Skills adequately covered? see below

NTB Reference # and Key Words	Course Code(s)	Level of Coverage
1. GC01 – Technology Report (Capstone Project)	FRST 262, FRST 242, FRST 212, FRST 201	Good coverage. A marked improvement over previous reports
2. GC02 – Mathematics	Math 171, Math 181, FRST 111	Adequate
3. GC03 – Management and Business Principles	FRST 162, FRST 262, FRST 242	Adequate
4. GC04 – Physical and Natural Sciences	FRST 121, FRST 131, FRST 152	Good coverage
5. GC05 – Ethics, Sustainability, Contracts and Codes	FRST 242, FRST 262, FRST 233	Adequate – See OFI #1
6. GC06 - Communications	ENGL 115, ENGL 225, FRST 201	Adequate – See OFI #3
7. GC07 – Computer Knowledge	FRST 181, FRST 182, FRST 282	Good coverage
8. GC08 – Health and Safety	FRST 111, FRST 261, FRST 272	Adequate coverage

Comments: Forest Technologists in B.C. are governed by right to practice legislation and are required to be registered with their professional association. Registration includes a professional examination based on published competency based outcomes. The accreditation team is obliged to match those outcomes to program content. The students would be well served if all courses, including the English courses, provided matching competency based outcomes in the course outlines to ensure program recognition and facilitate the student’s transition to professional status through program accreditation.

Review of Table 3 - Faculty Analysis

Is Table 3 substantially complete? Yes X No

Comments: It would be appropriate to include your Lab Technician – Kathi Davis on Table 3, as she appears in the PAC minutes as faculty.

Review of Course Outlines

Were all Course Outlines submitted for review? Yes X No

Are they reasonable clear in their objectives? Yes X No X

Are course marking schemes included? Yes X No

Comments: Several course outlines, especially in support courses of Math and English lack detail as to schedule of topics and emphasis within course.

Review of Technology Reports (6 marked samples required from the past two years)

Do the reports meet the requirements of NTB GC01? Yes X No

Do they represent work at the Technologist level? Yes X No

Comments: Quality of recent Technology Reports greatly improved. VIU appears to have addressed the Findings in 2008 regarding the Technology Reports. Well done.

External Input

Is the Program Advisory Committee Member List included? Yes X No

Is the Committee active and current? Yes X No

Are Minutes from last two meetings, or other form of Industry Consultation, provided? Yes X No

Comments: A complete list showing PAC members and employers would be beneficial. It seems some of the employers for the submitted list have changed since 2009. Why not submit the current PAC members for 2010 – 2011(as of Jan 1, 2011)?

Findings:

Nothing to report

Opportunities for Improvement:

1. Given that in BC, Forestry is a restricted and regulated profession, it would be good if some specific outcomes related to that topic, registration and scope of practice be included.
2. Faculty must continue to improve course outlines to include more definitive outcome statements such as “describe, apply, or evaluate” rather than “demonstrate a thorough knowledge of”, “Appreciate the importance of” or “Understand”. State outcomes, especially in 2nd Year courses, that reflect higher order thinking like analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
3. Several course outlines, especially in support courses of Math and English lack detail as to schedule of topics and emphasis within course. The students would be well served if all courses, including the English courses, provided matching competency based outcomes in the course outlines to ensure program recognition and facilitate the student’s transition to professional status through program accreditation.
4. FRST 212 – Forest Measurements IV – best represents the Forest Measurements major. This course has previously been the selected Forest Measurements program strength course.