

Institutional Evaluation

**2007-2008 SUGGESTIONS
FROM GRADUATES ON
IMPROVING TRI-COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

[June, 2008]



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From January, 2008, through April, 2008, diploma and associate degree graduates obtaining degrees from 7/1/06 through 6/30/07 were surveyed by the Institutional Research and Evaluation Department. The survey consisted of two mailings followed by a telephone interview of nonrespondents. One question asked graduates for suggestions for improving Tri-County Technical College. The following report lists their responses to the question.

Executive Summary

Of the 541 graduates surveyed, 54 or 11% provided suggestions for improving Tri-County Technical College. The top five suggestions from highest to lowest frequency of response were (1) 28% addressing parking concerns, (2) 17% Improving availability of Advisors and Instructors, (3) 13% Improving organization, communication of office staff, (4) 11% Availability of Courses, (5) 11% Updating equipment and facilities.

Arts and Sciences Graduates

Associate in Arts and Associate in Science – 54 Graduates Surveyed

- The College as a whole does not have many shortcomings; however, a more comprehensive library would be a major improvement.
- I would like to see weekend classes. Tri-County Technical College was a good school overall and the only reason for any un-satisfaction would be on my own part. I wasn't ready to go to school because I didn't know what I really wanted to do with my entire life. It would be a huge help if you had demo classes where prospective students could observe what's being taught. Overall, satisfied! Very thankful to Student Support Services for all the help they gave me.
- Science lab classes in the morning. When taking physical science, I had to use vacation time once a week in order to finish my degree.
- Variety in class times.
- Parking! Also, I believe that year-long courses should be offered each semester, such as anatomy and physiology. Anatomy I should be offered fall or spring and the same with Anatomy II so students who may have to take a semester off don't have to wait for courses to become available.
- None, Tri-County Technical College is doing a great job at providing many opportunities for all of its students.
- The admissions process needs improving. I got several different answers for one question.
- It seemed perfect to me.

Business and Public Services Graduates

Accounting – 8 Graduates Surveyed

- Have more activities for evening students to make them feel more involved.
- Better food service for evening students; longer hours more food selections.

Computer Technology – 28 Graduates Surveyed

- I think the advisors need to explain in the beginning the certificate that can be obtained while earning a degree.
- More space.
- I was a little disappointed with Tri-County Technical College saying they hire their graduates, but when I put my application in I was sent a letter saying that I did not have enough experience. They were asking for at least 1 years experience and I had 6 – 8 months experience and was not given a chance. Then I found out that the job I applied for was given to someone who had not even graduated. I think that the hiring process needs to be looked into.
- Better parking.

Criminal Justice Technology – 24 Graduates Surveyed

- Better parking.
- Parking, as in not walking a mile up the stairs to get to class, more drink machines, bigger bookstore, and covered areas/walkways for when it's raining.
- Get rid of cardiac hill.

Early Childhood Development – 22 Graduates Surveyed

- No suggestions.

Management – 47 Graduates Surveyed

- Do not allow lottery assisted students to attend class if they do not meet minimum standards.
- Some courses should not be online. If it is a difficult course, the course needs an instructor in a classroom to guide students.
- Increased communication between advisors and financial aid office.
- Offer more interactions with local businesses and students allowing mutual benefits and symbiotic relationships. I always hated group projects because they never reflected the efforts (or lack of efforts) by each student. If group projects could be geared to applying what students have

learned to a local business and allow that business to critique efforts, then it's real. Have prior students (graduates) come together and brainstorm. I'd love to participate.

- Books should be cheaper so going to school is more affordable.
- I think that the President should consider a method to make the parking situation better for its students. I also think that the campus should have pay phones somewhere on campus.

Office Systems Technology – 36 Graduates Surveyed

- Take federal loans and have better parking.
- Help people find jobs in the field they graduated from.
- More online classes would be great and more class availability.
- Bigger menu in lunchroom, parking, newer books in library.
- The outside and professional and administrative areas are beautiful. However, the bathroom floors are never swept or mopped, the classrooms with carpet are never cleaned, tile floors in classrooms have not been cleaned in so long that the chair and tables are hard to move, and in some the floors are so dirty that your feet stick to the floor, and the dust is so thick, it increases allergies. The College needs a very good cleaning.

Radio and Television Broadcasting – 13 Graduates Surveyed

- Get out of the classroom and observe a real television station or radio station. Bring in more speakers. Concentrate more on the changing of technology in the field and develop a real time operation to help students know what it is like working in the industry.
- Less expensive, higher quality food. Atlas is terrible.

Health Education Graduates

Associate Degree Nursing – 40 Graduates Surveyed

- Take away the hills!
- Need better parking. Maybe have a shuttle bus that you only pay a dollar a day. Because if you have to park at the bottom, by the time you get to class, you're late or out of breath.
- Newer and more equipment.
- Some general education classes are unorganized. Need to vary teaching techniques.

- The shortage in this profession will never be filled until schools realize that there are a lot of men and women out there who have the desire to be in this field, but lack the ability to give 100% of their time to school. (Working a 36 hour to 40 hour job like I did and going to school is rough). I'm thankful I finished, but it was torture doing so.
- My graduation experience is why I didn't respond to the 1st letter. I worked hard to graduate with honors, what a disappointment!
- Improve parking, maybe a shuttle service would help we have to walk up steep hills.

Expanded Duty Dental Assisting – 22 Graduates Surveyed

- More advisors, offer more classes and more help during registration.
- I would start a dental hygiene program. I would love to attend Tri-County Technical College, but you don't offer this major.
- Should consider having a dental hygiene program. I feel it would be very successful.

Medical Laboratory Technology – 13 Graduates Surveyed

- No suggestions.

Practical Nursing – 35 Graduates Surveyed

- Availability of instructors and more online classes.
- Break rooms closer to the health science building.
- Have a better setup for testing where students are able to focus on test instead of noise from classmates or individuals running testing centers.
- More night classes.

Respiratory Care – 14 Graduates Surveyed

- I think the College does a fine job in providing an affordable education and semi-professional skills to individuals from diverse backgrounds and with diverse needs.

Surgical Technology – 22 Graduates Surveyed

- I believe there are many advisors that are not doing their job properly, some counselors are just getting a paycheck without evaluating what is best for the student and some students end up

taking classes that aren't necessary. Parking should be more flexible for evening hours.

Veterinary Technology – 11 Graduates Surveyed

- More state-of-art instructors needed.
- Integrate with veterinary technology more, provide more funding (it really is a spectacular program and better than many other veterinary technology programs).

Industrial and Engineering Technology Graduates

Electronics Engineering Technology – 2 Graduates Surveyed

- No suggestions.

Engineering Graphics Technology – 5 Graduates Surveyed

- No suggestions.

General Engineering Technology – 7 Graduates Surveyed

- Other than saying Tri-County Technical College should be geared toward real life and moving into the job market without a 4-year degree or should I say laying the ground work to move into or improve your position in the job market, there are not negative aspects to my experience at Tri-County Technical College.

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Technology/Industrial Maintenance – 18 Graduates Surveyed

- Better parking. Get rid of the security officers and get real police officers.
- More parking for students.
- Crack down on smokers please. Every time I come up a hill after climbing steps, I had to breathe second hand smoke. Yuck!
- The sign out front says “College for the Real World”. This should be true for all departments! The instructors in my major were great and understand that most folks at night work all day. Some departments do not understand at all and I think this hurts the College as a whole. A lot of people are “scared” off by instructors who don't understand.

Industrial Electronics Technology – 29 Graduates Surveyed

- Weekend classes for flexibility.

- Please make available more online classes so that individuals working long hours can have more opportunity to further their education. It would also help to offer a block program. It's very difficult to take several different classes and work a full-time job. A block program would allow individuals to concentrate on one topic for a short span of time, and then proceed to the next topic.

Machine Tool Technology – 7 Graduates Surveyed

- I think the designated smoking areas are stupid, and I don't even smoke.
- More money towards landscaping.

Textile Management Technology – 9 Graduates Surveyed

- No suggestions.

Welding – 11 Graduates Surveyed

- No suggestions.