

From: [Scott C Redding](#)
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Cc: [Scott C Redding](#)
Subject: Ferris Welding Engineering Technology Program Receives ABET Accreditation
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NEWS SERVICES

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
1009 Campus Drive, Johnson 200, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: (231) 591-2866 Fax: (231) 591-2946
www.ferris.edu/news

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Scott Redding
Ferris State University

Marketing

Specialist

[reddins@ferris.edu](mailto:reddings@ferris.edu), (231) 591-

2866

Ferris Welding Engineering Technology Program Receives ABET Accreditation

BIG RAPIDS – The Welding Engineering Technology bachelor of science program at Ferris State University is the only program in the country to have been granted accreditation from the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET, Inc., the recognized accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. ABET accreditation demonstrates a program’s commitment to providing its students with a quality education.

“This accreditation just validates the quality of our Welding Engineering Technology program,” said Ronald McKean, associate dean of Ferris’ College of Engineering Technology.

Accreditation is a voluntary, peer-review process that requires programs to undergo comprehensive, periodic evaluations. The evaluations, conducted by teams of volunteer professionals working in industry, government, academe, and private practice within the ABET disciplines, focus on program curricula, faculty, facilities, institutional support, and other important areas.

"The ABET accreditation of the Welding Engineering Technology program is the culmination of a programmatic direction that began nearly 10 years ago that involved our

advisory board, employers of graduates, alumni, and faculty working together to establish, measure and achieve nationally recognized educational outcomes and objectives,” said Kenneth Kuk, Welding Engineering Technology professor.

One of the key elements of ABET accreditation is the requirement that programs continuously improve the quality of education provided. As part of this continuous improvement requirement, programs set specific, measurable goals for their students and graduates, assess their success at reaching those goals, and improve their programs based on the results of their assessment.

In addition to providing colleges and universities a structured mechanism to assess, evaluate, and improve their programs, accreditation also helps students and their parents choose quality college programs, enables employers and graduate schools to recruit graduates they know are well-prepared, and is used by registration, licensure, and certification boards to screen applicants.

ABET has accredited five other programs in the College of Engineering Technology, four are TAC-ABET and one is from the Engineering Accreditation Commission. ABET is not the only organization to accreditate CET programs and many have received accreditation from their industry partners.

The Welding Engineering Technology program was established in 1984 and is the largest of its kind in the country. The program is designed to produce plant-level welding engineering technology graduates who are involved in the concept, design and engineering of weldments and implementation of welding processes. For more on Ferris’ Welding Engineering Technology program visit, www.ferris.edu/welding.

ABET is a not-for-profit organization, owned and operated by its more than 25 professional and technical member societies. An internationally respected organization with some 1,500 volunteers, ABET has set the higher-educational standards in its fields for nearly 75 years. More information about ABET, its member societies, and the evaluation criteria used to accredit programs can be found at www.abet.org.

Scott Redding
Marketing Specialist
College of Engineering Technology
Ferris State University
1009 Campus Drive, JOH 200
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-591-2866 p
231-591-2946 f