



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCCC INKS PRODUCT AND PROCESS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH EMU

Allows MCCC Students to Transfer up to 101 Credits

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College and Eastern Michigan University have signed an articulation agreement that allows a product and process technology student at MCCC to transfer up to 101 credits towards a bachelor's degree at EMU.

Under the terms of the agreement, after completing the MCCC portion of the curriculum, a student can take as few as 39 credit hours at EMU and earn a bachelor of science in product design and development. Prior to that, the student would earn an associate of applied science in product and process technology from MCCC.

Students who major in product and process technology will be prepared for careers in the high-performance manufacturing of consumer goods.

Bob Leonard, assistant professor of manufacturing technology, believes the agreement benefits students by saving them money, offering advanced career opportunities and providing a simple system of transferring credits.

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“Now the method to transfer is seamless and visible, and it helps students see that they can easily get a bachelor’s degree in the area of manufacturing,” Leonard said. “It’s important to have students move on to a university because in some cases an associate’s degree isn’t enough anymore. Some places are asking for a bachelor’s degree for entry-level jobs.”

And although the word “manufacturing” might carry a negative connotation after the recent downsizing of the automobile industry, Leonard says that the industry is again on the rise in Michigan and across the country.

“Everything that you can think of has to be manufactured,” he said. “People don’t realize we’re not just making cars and stamping out dies. This program is about the process and about the product.

“I’m getting calls now for CNC (computer numerical control) technicians. They need people that know the machines and the codes and can actually program the ‘X, Y, and Z.’”

Last year the product and process technology program was redesigned to prepare for student success in the new era of manufacturing.

“We needed more high-speed machining, less manual machines, more safety, more CAD/CAM, and to keep up with industry,” Leonard said.

CAD/CAM (computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing) uses geometric numbers to design a tool path that will direct a machine to shape an object exactly as it was drawn. The addition of more CNC course work was another big change. In addition, the laboratory was outfitted with several new machines to accommodate the new program, including a CNC high-speed machining center, a CNC wire EDM (electrical discharge machine) and a CNC turning center.

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Among the jobs in manufacturing that graduates can pursue include CAD tool engineer, CAD/CAM technician, CAM operator, CNC programmer, CNC set-up technician, designer, engineering technician, industrial engineer production team leader, machine technician, machinist, manufacturing technician, process planner lab technician, production control specialist, and sales and service engineer.

Leonard said he eventually hopes to add other articulation agreements with various educational institutions in Michigan so that students in the MCCC product and process technology program have further transfer options.

This is the second program in MCCC's Industrial Technology Division with an articulation agreement with EMU. The other is the college's construction management technology program.

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