



Collision Repair Program Diploma Option

State Submission

Dr. Cathy Anderson

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IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Collision Repair Program at Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI) prepares students to have the skill and ability to analyze the collision repair needs, analyze and use the appropriate tools and equipment, and create a safe working environment. The program also develops a student's professionalism to enable them to communicate successfully in the automotive and collision repair setting.

WDTI proposes to offer an expanded opportunity to students seeking employment in the Collision Repair field through a nine-month diploma option. The diploma option will provide students the training necessary to gain the specialized skills needed to be successful in the Collision Repair field. This path will give students the option to go on and get their AAS degree to qualify them for possible supervisory roles or to possibly start up their own collision repair business.

According to the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), (OOH) Automotive body and related repairers, often called collision repair technicians, straighten bent bodies, remove dents, and replace crumpled parts that cannot be fixed. They repair all types of vehicles, and although some work on large trucks, buses, or tractor-trailers, most work on cars and small trucks. They can work alone, with only general direction from supervisors, or as specialists on a repair team. In some shops, helpers or apprentices assist experienced repairers.

The diploma option will provide students with the specialized skills to work under the supervision of an experienced collision repair technician in a shop providing the above services. In addition, the diploma option will also provide the necessary skills for students to work as automotive painters. According to the [OOH](#), this occupation includes duties such as “refinish old or damaged cars, trucks, and buses in automotive body repair and paint shops. Transportation equipment painters who work in repair shops are among the most highly skilled manual spray operators, because they perform intricate, detailed work and mix paints to match the original color, a task that is especially difficult if the color has faded. The preparation work on an old car is similar to painting other metal objects. The paint is normally applied with a manually controlled spray gun.

The OOH also includes automotive glass or windshield repairers in this classification. *These individuals are responsible to install, repair, and replace safety glass and related materials, such as back-glass heating-elements, on vehicles and equipment. The duties of this position include obtaining the appropriate windows, repairing cracks and scratches, and cleaning damaged windows, preparing windows and windshields for installation, removing damaged windshields, and other installation requirements.*

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the proposed diploma is to provide students with specialized skills and education in the collision repair field. The advisory committee members noted that while they valued the skills and abilities of an AAS prepared student they desired an option for students who need quick training in the field due to personal and financial reasons. The majority of the advisory committee members recommended that a diploma option be added.

This nine-month program prepares the student for immediate employment. It is designed for people straight out of high school, career changers, and those in mid-career an opportunity to pursue a specialization in the collision repair field. The abridged program is also being developed in an effort to improve retention and academic achievement for those students who enter the program seeking a lab based or hands-on learning environment.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Prepare specialized technicians with the skills and ability to create a safe working environment.
- Provide technicians with specialized knowledge of sheet metal working equipment and methods.
- Provide specialized technicians with the basic skills necessary for reading, writing, and math.
- Provide technicians with specialized skills for successfully understanding paint processes, paint technology, and analysis.

METHODS OF OBTAINING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The program will include lecture, lab and field experiences. Working closely with our local advisory committee we will develop enriching and relevant learning experiences for students. The advisory committee is actively involved in designing and developing the curriculum for this program.

POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY THE PROGRAM

WDT will provide access to all interested individuals in this program. The program is full time. All applicants must be high school or GED graduates and must take the COMPASS exam to establish writing and math abilities.

It is the policy of Western Dakota Tech not to discriminate in admission to or participation in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, family or medical leave, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, or an arrest or conviction record.

THREE YEAR BUDGET

This program will be offered in addition to our existing AAS. There is no anticipated extra budget needed to support this proposal.

LABOR MARKET DEMANDS

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) automotive and related repairers held about 185,900 jobs in 2008. The OOH emphasized that job opportunities will be excellent for people with formal training in Collision Repair in comparison to those who do not have the same background but are employed in the industry.

Information from the OOH indicates that South Dakota has one of the highest employment rates in the window replacement/repair field of the Automotive Repair industry workers in the nation. The average starting wage is \$16.11 per hour and an annual average salary of \$33, 510. WDT's local advisory committee also emphasized the need for formalized training and education in the industry.

To the above employment projections, the 2007 I-CAR (Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair) also reported that; 10,339 who are employed in the industry came from a technical training school. Surveyed members of the industry indicated that they would have hired 27,550 additional employees with a similar background.

EMPLOYMENT FACTOR

Occupations include:

49-3021 Automotive Body and Related Repairers

Repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

49-3022 Automotive Glass Installers and Repairers

Replace or repair broken windshields and window glass in motor vehicles. Illustrative examples: Auto Glass Mechanic; Windshield Installer; Auto Glass Fitter

Projection Data from the National Employment Matrix					
Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment 2008	Projected Employment 2018	Change 2008-18	
				Number	Percent
Automotive body and related repairers	—	185,900	187,000	1,100	1
Automotive body and related repairers	49-3021	166,400	167,200	800	0
Automotive glass installers and repairers	49-3022	19,500	19,900	400	2

NOTE: Data in this table are rounded. See the discussion of the employment projections table in the *Handbook* introductory chapter on [Occupational Information Included in the Handbook](#).

In South Dakota, according to the Labor Market Information System, current employment is at 820 projected to grow to 835 by 2018 an increase of 1.8% with an average annual demand for new employees projected to be 22. One outcome for graduates from the Collision Repair program is the opportunity to become a self-employed entrepreneur.

WAGE FACTOR

Median hourly wages of automotive body and related repairers, including incentive pay, were \$17.81 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$13.74 and \$23.57 an hour. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$10.75, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$30.17 an hour. Median hourly wages of automotive body and related repairers were \$18.95 in automobile dealers and \$17.40 in automotive repair and maintenance.

Median hourly wages of automotive glass installers and repairers, including incentive pay, were \$15.44 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$12.40 and \$18.88 an hour. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$9.71 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$23.39 an hour. Median hourly wages in automotive repair and maintenance shops, the industry employing most automotive glass installers and repairers, were \$15.34.

The majority of those employed by independent repair shops and automotive dealers are paid on an incentive basis. Under this system, body repairers are paid a set amount for various tasks, and earnings depend on both the amount of work assigned and how fast it is completed. Employers frequently guarantee workers a minimum weekly salary. Body repairers who work for trucking companies, and other organizations that maintain their own vehicles usually receive an hourly wage.

Helpers and trainees typically earn between 30 percent and 60 percent of the earnings of skilled workers. They are paid by the hour until they are skilled enough to be paid on an incentive basis. Employee benefits vary widely from business to business. However, industry sources report that benefits such as paid leave, health insurance, and retirement assistance are increasingly common in the collision repair industry. Automotive dealerships are the most likely to offer such incentives.

SOC 49-3021	10%	30%	50 %	60%	90%	Avg
West River Area						
Automotive Body and Related Repairers	\$13.43	\$15.32	\$17.65	\$23.57	\$26.69	\$18.90
Rapid City Area						
Automotive Body and Related Repairers	\$13.43	\$15.32	\$17.65	\$23.57	\$26.69	\$18.90

PROGRAM COMPETENCIES AND ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS OF SUB OCCUPATIONS

Entry point: Fall 2011-12

Exit point: Graduation with a diploma in Collision Repair after nine months. Students who continue into the second year will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in Collision Repair.

STATEMENT OF NON-DUPLICATION

Western Dakota Technical Institute is offering a diploma option to the already established AAS degree program. The student needs, population and industry demands are sufficient to serve the needs of this population.

APPENDIX A-CURRICULUM LAYOUT

Course Matrix for Diploma Program

Number	Title	Credit
First Semester		
CRT112	Shop Orientation/Maintenance and Safety	1
CRT113	Collision Repair Welding	4
CRT115	Basic Sheet Metal Repair	4
CRT110	Nonstructural Panel Alignment	4
CIS 105	Microcomputer Software Applications	3
Math 090	Basic Math (2 Cr.) or higher Compass Test placement <i>or</i>	
Math 104	Tech Math (3 credits)	2 or 3
ORT 010	Orientation	1
Second Semester		
CRT123	Refinishing Procedures	4
CRT125	Paint Defects, causes and cures, with Final Detailing	4
CRT129	Panel Preparation	4

Auto body Repairers and Technicians CIP Code: 47.0603

APPENDIX B-LETTERS OF SUPPORT

March 16, 2011

Mark Wilson
S.D. Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mark Wilson,

As a collision repair business in Rapid City, SD, we encourage and support WDTI's efforts to offer a diploma program in addition to its AAS in collision repair technology. The diploma will provide students with practical hands on education and experience in the collision repair field. As an employer in the collision repair industry I am confident that the program will offer students some hands on experience and education beyond that of the entry level employee.

The current collision repair workforce is experiencing changes as many experienced workers in field retire or make career changes. It is essential that we now take steps to prepare others to replace these workers.

As the only technical institute in Western South Dakota and one of only a few in South Dakota, Western Dakota Technical Institute is a recognized leader in providing education and training to ensure a skilled workforce. As a member of the collision repair industry, I can confidently state that we value the education and training provided by WDTI. I appreciate their response to the needs of the collision repair industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Erdman', written over a horizontal line.

Dennis Erdman
Collision Center



March 16, 2011

2090 DEADWOOD AVE. • P.O. BOX 1765
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57709 • TELEPHONE 605/343-1282

Mark Wilson
S.D. Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mark Wilson,

The requested change to the Collision Repair Technology program, to expand the program offerings to include a diploma option in addition to the AAS, is necessary to provide students an option of achieving success in a step towards achieving their academic and career goals. This addition better reflects the needs of students, as well as, continuing to meet the needs of the industry.

Students who receive the diploma will have the hands on experience, background, and knowledge in the use of appropriate tools, painting procedures, and other collision repair technology to be successful in the field.

WDTI is a leader in providing technical programs and educational services in Western South Dakota. The collision repair technology industry in Rapid City and South Dakota is facing a need for skilled and trained employees due to retirements and career changes.

I support WDTI's request to add a diploma option as essential to supporting and ensuring a trained and qualified workforce in the field. WDTI has a strong team that instructs and supports this program. It is essential to this industry that we have the opportunity to provide the necessary education to students. This education provides the foundation for us to hire graduates who are competent and successful in the field, understand a safe working environment and are team players.

Sincerely,

John Berg
Rapid Chevrolet



RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS

Rapid City Alternative Programs



April 5, 2011

Mark Wilson
SD Department of Education
800 Governor Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mark,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed collision repair diploma program at Western Dakota Technical. This expanded program offering provides WDT students an option that has not been available in this area. These diploma graduates will have hands-on experience in the lab, as well as, the knowledge of the appropriate tools, procedures and collision repair technology necessary to be successful in the collision repair field.

WDT is a leader in ensuring a strong workforce by providing both education and training opportunities to all of West River and our neighboring states. I appreciate their willingness to expand programs to meet the needs of the students they serve and to continue to meet the needs of the collision repair industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald A. Steue".

Principal
Rapid City Alternative Programs