

FOREST PRODUCTS TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA: AN SWST EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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The objectives of this report are twofold: 1) to furnish, for the first time in one report, a summary of information on forest products technician programs in the United States and Canada to students, faculty members, and employers; and 2) to promote, at least on the regional level, coordination of these programs with 4-year professional programs offered by the 25 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

College placement officers note two major trends today: an increasing demand for (a) graduates having B.S. degrees in forest products with minors in business management, and (b) graduates trained as forest products technicians. This demand for products technicians promises to increase as the forest industries utilize the wealth of technological innovations now available to them.

Mechanization, automation, and increased efficiency within the forest industries typify the changes that face these technicians. Such changes will demand more ability and training on the part of these people (Loudermilk 1966). However, vocational and technical institutions tend to lag behind industrial needs (Coba and Irvin 1975).

Advisors of students are often aware that their advisees would be very successful as forest products technicians, but do not have the interest, academic preparation, and/or ability to undertake a 4-year professional university program in forest products. At this time, prospective students are showing more and more interest in forest-related courses such as sawmilling and woodhandling (Ringling 1978).

This report will help the student and advisor make the right choice in selecting an educational program to follow. It will also aid employers in locating and hiring well-trained forest products technicians.

The following references were used to compile a list of colleges offering technician programs in forest products: Barron's Guide to the Two-Year Colleges (1978) and The College Blue Book (1977).

Using this list, we contacted the 233 American and 12 Canadian colleges that were reported to offer technician programs in forestry. Of the 153 colleges that replied to our inquiry, 54 colleges (49 American and 5 Canadian) offer programs in forest management only and 91 have no forestry programs. We found only eight colleges (7 American and 1 Canadian) offering technician programs in forest products and/or pulp and paper. These programs are described in Table 1.

TABLE 1. *Forest Products Technician Programs in the United States and Canada.*

Institution	Program	Training for:*	Time required	Credits required	Award earned
1) British Columbia Institute of Technology Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada	Forest Products	production and maintenance supervisors, maintenance planners, production control statisticians, quality control statisticians, supervisors, kiln drying specialists, mill design specialists, research technicians, sales representatives, technical service representatives.	2 Years	35 Hrs. per wk.	Diploma of Technology
	a) Wood Products				
	b) Pulp and Paper	environmental control technicians, process technologists, engineering assistants, research and development technologists and sales and technical representatives.	2 Years	35 Hrs. per wk.	Diploma of Technology
2) Chemeketa Community College Salem, Oregon	Forest Products	a wide range of occupations within the forest products and related industries. The courses include basic industry processes and equipment, quality control and testing, technical representation and selling of building materials.	2 Years	103 (qtr.)	A.S. Degree
	a) Wood Processing				
	b) Pulp and Paper				
3) Dabney S. Lancaster Community College Clifton Forge, Virginia	Forest Products Producer	persons who seek full-time employment immediately upon completion of the program. Graduates will be qualified as products producers in the timber harvesting or sawmilling industries.	7 Quarters	109 (qtr.)	A.A.S. Degree
4) Fox Valley Technical Institute Appleton, Wisconsin	Pulp and Paper Chemical Technology	chemical laboratory technicians, research and development technicians, quality control technicians, sales and service technicians, or a variety of other jobs involved in the production of pulp and paper.	2 Years	67 (sem.)	A.A. Degree

TABLE 1. *Continued.*

Institution	Program	Training for:*	Time required	Credits required	Award earned
5) Haywood Technical Institute Clyde, North Carolina	a) Forest Products Technology	job opportunities with sawmill industries at the technical or midmanagement levels from supervising the tree harvesting process to the various sawmill operations on to the merchandising of the primary wood products.	7 Quarters	122 (qtr.)	A.A.S. Degree
	b) Lumber Specialist	apprentice lumber grader, planer mill operator or dry kiln operator.	3 or 4 Quarters	66/(79/84) (qtr.)	Diploma
	c) Saw Filer	apprentice saw filer	2 Quarters	38 (qtr.)	Certificate
	d) Sawyer	apprentice sawyer	3 Quarters	52 (qtr.)	Diploma
6) University of Kentucky Any Community College (first year) Quicksand, Kentucky (second year)	Forest and Wood Technology	wood utilization industry at the technical or midmanagement level. Employment with sawmill industries, furniture, plywood and paper manufacturers, as well as with other manufacturers of wood products.	2 Years	66-73 (sem.)	A.A.S. Degree
7) Miami University Oxford, Ohio	Pulp and Paper Technology	the technical aspects of the production of paper. Employment in paper mills or related industries in technically oriented positions. Sometimes leads to lower level management positions.	2 Years	64 (sem.)	Associates Degree
8) State University of New York Morrisville Agricultural and Technical College Morrisville, New York	Wood Products Technology	employment in middle management positions in the furniture and lumber industries, in time and motion study, dry kiln operation, job evaluations, job specifications, cost analysis, production supervision, shipping and receiving, and wholesale and retail sales.	2 Years	65 (sem.)	A.A.S. Degree

* Information in this column was copied from the respective college's catalog or information pamphlets.

REFERENCES

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