

# Northern Illinois University Department of Technology Industrial Technology Emphasis

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is Industrial Technology?

Industrial Technology is the emphasis that NIU's Department of Technology offers at the NIU Hoffman Estates, Naperville, and Rockford campuses. The degree offers a combination of management/supervisory skills in combination with an emphasis in a technical area. This degree prepares the students for leadership/supervisory roles within industry. Most of the students in this program have completed a technical AAS degree and thus, have completed the technical portion of the degree. The remainder of course work is a combination of fundamental courses like math, science, and general education, as well as the management/supervision portion given in the Technology area.

### 2. Where do Technology Department graduates work after graduation?

In general, students in the Technology program offered are currently employed, and are using the opportunity to advance their education by earning a 4-year baccalaureate degree. This degree prepares the individuals for a management/supervisory position in industry frequently within their own company.

### 3. How long will it take to complete my degree?

The length of time which one takes to complete the degree depends on many variables, most of which center on the number of courses which are transferred to NIU and useable in the Industrial Technology emphasis. In general, if an individual enters the program with an AAS degree and some additional course work that adds up to 66 credit hours, it will take about 4 years of course work, taken part-time, to complete the program. This 4-year time frame assumes that the individual completes five courses per year, either from a community college or NIU.

4. How much of my previous college work will transfer to NIU?

The Industrial Technology emphasis requires a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit for graduation. Of these credits, the AAS degree that you have completed at a community college counts for the technical component, 23 credits, within the Special Technology area of study. This credit is considered proficiency credit, and thus students can bring in an additional community college to complete their general education. Transfer courses that can be utilized in the Industrial Technology emphasis can be determined by your advisor, and approved by the Department.

5. Is there a difference between the IT emphasis offered in DeKalb and as part of NIU Community College Partnership program?

The coursework involved in the management/supervision portion of the Industrial Technology emphasis and the courses that the Technology Department offers at the NIU off campus locations follow the same syllabi as those taught on campus. In fact, many of the same courses are taught in the evenings on the DeKalb campus, and students, who wish, can take the same courses on our main campus.

6. Can I get additional information on the program?

Of course! Information may be available from several places. The first, and foremost, based upon content is the Departmental web site - <http://www.ceet.niu.edu/tech/academic/ccpartners/welcom.htm>. This site has all of the information, including transfer courses, brochures, forms, applications, and important links. In addition, you can call either of the following contact people for information:

Stacey Deegan - Technology Program Advisor  
(815) 753-9943 [deegan@ceet.niu.edu](mailto:deegan@ceet.niu.edu)

Dr. Cliff Mirman - Department Chair  
(815) 753-0531 [mirman@ceet.niu.edu](mailto:mirman@ceet.niu.edu)

Departmental Office - (815) 753-1349

Additional information is available on the NIU Community College Partnership website.

<http://www.itsptech.niu.edu>

7. Why are only a few courses offered every semester at the NIU off campus locations?

Since the program has been developed for the student completing their studies on a part time basis, we typically offer 1 course on-site, where the instructor is in the room. We also offer at least one course using interactive video, and simultaneously we can broadcast to several sites. There are also online courses available. The offering of required courses is completed on a 2-3 year rotation, which is posted on our website. This rotation ensures that a timely delivery of courses can be accomplished. In addition, since we teach the same courses on campus, at varying times, one can take courses on the DeKalb campus if extra courses are needed.

8. How do I contact my advisor?

The preferable means of communication with your advisor is by e-mail or phone.

Stacey Deegan - Technology Program Advisor  
(815) 753-9943     [deegan@ceet.niu.edu](mailto:deegan@ceet.niu.edu)

Dr. Cliff Mirman - Department Chair  
(815) 753-0531     [mirman@ceet.nu.edu](mailto:mirman@ceet.nu.edu)

Departmental Office - (815) 753-1349  
Fax - (815) 753-3702

Generally, information will be provided either in a return e-mail, phone call, or fax.

9. Can I get credit for my many years of work experience?

This is a possibility, however, we handle this on a case-by-case basis, where we can verify that nearly all of the material covered in a particular course is covered. This credit will typically be counted as proficiency credit where you must demonstrate proficiency. If, after looking at the particular course description in the NIU Undergraduate Catalog, you feel that you can demonstrate proficiency, please contact the Technology Program Advisor.

10. What are the most overlooked rules for students in the program?

All of the rules and regulations are in the Undergraduate Student Bulletin. This document contains the official rules of the University, and it is the ultimate guide on the policies. There are a few NIU rules that must be strictly adhered to prior to graduation,

- All students must complete 120 semester hours of credit - comprised of NIU and Community College work.
- 30 semester hours of credit must be taken at NIU. You should note that this 30-hour rule states that the final 30 hours must be taken at NIU, however, the Department typically waives this requirement in favor of simply 30 hours at NIU. The proper paperwork must be completed.
- 40 hours of 300/400 level course work (from any school) must be taken.
- A total of six general education courses (9 hrs. Humanities, 6 hrs. Social Science, 3 hrs. Interdisciplinary) per NIU requirements.
- A grade of C or better in the Trigonometry course. A very limited number of equivalent math courses can be used to complete this requirement (please consult student handbook).
- A grade of C or better in English 103 and 104 (NIU course numbers) and Communications 100 (NIU course number); both of which may be taken at the Community College level.

11. Can I complete my degree without ever going to DeKalb?

Yes! This program is set-up specifically for the part-time students who either possess a Technical AAS degree or will be obtaining an AAS degree from a 2-year community college.

12. I work nights; will NIU ever offer daytime courses at the off campus locations?

Unfortunately, at this point in time, all of the courses that are delivered at the off campus sites are offered predominately in the evening. However, daytime courses are available to all students on the DeKalb campus.

13. Can I get an NIU engineering degree in Rockford?

At this point in time, the Industrial Technology emphasis is the only degree program that is offered by the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology in Rockford.

14. Why doesn't my DARS report show the accepted course substitutions? Your advisor can review all of your prior course work to see what courses pertain to Industrial Technology emphasis and possible electives. The DARS report does not show any substitutions, unless there is a direct articulation with NIU - you can check the following site:

[http://www.reg.niu.edu/regrec/com\\_coll/handbook.htm](http://www.reg.niu.edu/regrec/com_coll/handbook.htm) To remedy this problem, which affects most of the TECH students, due to the large number of substitutions, the Departmental Advisor uses a program check-off sheet. This sheet is filled out when you are admitted to NIU, and is updated as needed. This sheet will tell you what courses are needed. If a course is checked off then it has either been taken or a proper substitution has been used. It is up to the students to keep track of where they stand in the program. The check-off sheets (blank) are available on the web site, and your advisor maintains current check off sheets for each student's progress.

15. Who evaluates the courses that transfer to NIU?

The technology related courses that are applicable to the Industrial Technology program are evaluated by the advisor and approved by the Department Chair. When you apply to NIU your course work is officially articulated by Registration & Records. All general education courses must be approved at the University level, and there is very limited leeway on what courses are accepted into the University. The math course evaluation is completed by the University, and one must have a grade of C or better. The Departmental requirement is NIU course MATH 155 - Trigonometry. If higher-level courses in Math are taken like calculus, they can be used also, however, the requirement of C or better still exists.

16. What courses will transfer to NIU?

The B.S. Industrial Technology program has been developed for students who, typically, possess the technical AAS degree from a Community College. Therefore, the Department uses this technical knowledge to satisfy the technical portion of the program, or 23 hours of credit. These credits are awarded as proficiency credit, and thus the students can transfer additional credit hours into the program. The remaining courses are determined by the advisor, and must match the requirements for the program.

17. Can I get credit for work that I have done in industry or learned out of the classroom?

Yes. If the Departmental advisor can verify that the experience covers a vast majority of a specific course, then proficiency can be given. In addition, one can always talk to the course instructor and request a proficiency exam. This exam can take on many forms, which are designated by the instructor in order to determine if the knowledge in the subject is equivalent to covered material in class.

18. Why won't NIU accept all of the community college's general education courses?

As part of the Industrial Technology emphasis, you are required to take six courses as part of the general education core. Of the six courses, three courses must be in the Liberal Arts area; of the three, one must be from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. In addition, one course must be from the Interdisciplinary area, and two from the Social Sciences area. It is important that courses be taken which articulate between your community college and NIU. To check which courses articulate in each area, one should check the Community College Articulation Tables website. [http://www.reg.niu.edu/regrec/com\\_coll/handbook.htm](http://www.reg.niu.edu/regrec/com_coll/handbook.htm) It should be noted that the decision to accept course work in the general education areas lies at the University level, and thus, the Technology Department are unable to accept additional course work in this area. Care should be taken in choosing which course is taken to satisfy this requirement.

19. I haven't attended college for 20 years. Will any of that work count in this program?

Yes! The Department of Technology treats this course work the same as all of the other transfer work that we evaluate. Applicable courses completed at an accredited college or university may be substituted into the Industrial Technology emphasis.

20. Can my military courses apply in this program?

The Department will not consider these types of training courses on an individual course basis unless it was taken at an accredited college or university. However, students who feel they have developed a competency in a particular area through several military courses and experience may contact the course instructor to complete a proficiency examination.

Students with significant military certification in a Technology area may qualify for proficiency credit for up to 23 semester hours.

21. Who can I call for direct advising?

If you would like to discuss any matters directly with your advisor, please call Stacey Deegan directly at (815) 753-9943 or email at [deegan@ceet.niu.edu](mailto:deegan@ceet.niu.edu). The advisor can assist in all matters from advising, problems with courses, or other matters related to the program.

22. Can I take a full course load in the off campus Industrial Technology program?

This program has been developed to fill an educational need in the NIU regional location. The program has been developed to offer a part-time baccalaureate degree to individuals who possess a technical AAS degree. If the course work is mapped out correctly, individuals can combine the required course work at NIU and your local community college into a full time educational program. However, the Department stands committed to offer a part-time Industrial Technology emphasis in Rockford.

23. Can I freely switch between NIU and the community college for my course work?

Yes! This is expected within this program.

24. How do I track my progress within the system?

There are several modes to track progress. The first and foremost is individually through the use of the check-off sheet that your advisor has prepared. In addition, you can access your DARS (Degree Audit Report) through NIU WebConnect <https://webcluster.niu.edu/Student/signon.htm> Please email your advisor to assist in clarifying any questions or problems.