

PTEC Virtual Meeting January 2013

From: Sarah M. Olson

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:57 AM

To: Sarah M. Olson, PTEC Director; Tech Fab; Safety F.R.I.; Koch Industries; National Cooperative Refinery Association; Phillips 66; Oklahoma Gas and Electric; TKI; Siemens

Subject: RE: NOC Process Technology - Advisory Board: Math and Economics Courses Questions

All,

Here is the compilation of responses I have received (see below). Based on the responses, we will add Math Applications (Technical) as an option for the math requirement.

We will also keep the economics course requirement, but we will allow either Intro to Business or Microeconomics to meet it. Many of you expressed value for a Technical Writing or other business communications type of class so I will continue to look for alternate ways to incorporate that into the program without going over the maximum credit hours for a degree.

Are you in favor or against the addition of a PTEC Math Applications class as a degree course? (The degree sheet would read: "Mathematics Required: College Algebra or Math Applications for PTEC")

Yes, I would be in favor. My only concern is will it diminish the acceptability of the degree in other states and with other companies that support PTEC degree programs? The PTEC Math applications course would have better application than College Algebra for operators, technicians and even non-degreed reliability "engineering" roles. I think that Math Applications would be great for the student in the PTEC, and find it more applicable than Algebra.

I'm in favor of eliminating college algebra and giving them more options.

I am in favor of this change. College Algebra obviously would be a requirement for an Engineering degree, but good understanding of basic math concepts is required for operators/maintenance technicians.

Do you feel strongly that we need to have an economic/business course as part of the degree program?

Yes.

Technical writing skills are very important (and usually not well developed) so I would opt for including the business/econ discussion into the applications class. Cost/benefit analysis, Statistical Process Control (SPC), budgeting, manufacturing variance analysis, cost elements of production are all topics that come to mind that might fit in the math applications course.

On the second question, scrapping Micro for a Technical writing class seems more beneficial from an operator/instrument tech point of view.

I do believe that this course offering should be an integral part of the degree program.

If yes to the above, is Introduction to Business an acceptable alternative to Microeconomics?

Yes, but same question concerning acceptability.

I believe that "Introduction to Business" would be an acceptable alternative.

Thank you again for your input into this degree program!

Regards,

Sarah Olson