

Capitol's Technology degree fits the bill

By Linda McCarty

Capitol's Bachelor of Technology degree may be just what the doctor ordered for companies in need of "hands on" engineers.

"I feel technology students are very well prepared," said James Long, manager of the Manufacturing Engineering Signal Components Division of AMP, Inc.

Long, also the chairman of the Harrisburg Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, said that while other companies may put barriers around the technology degree, in his mind "there is no clear distinction between the B.T. and the B.S.M.E." in his field of work.

In his work, which includes machine and tool design, manufacturing and industrial engineering, Long said he has found technology students have a more "hands on" type of education.

However, there is a more distinct academic difference between a technology degree and an engineering degree.

According to Dr. William Welsh, Head of the Division of Science, Engineering and Technology, technology students are not required to take as much mathematics as students enrolled in engineering programs at University Park.

University Park's engineering program is "more theoretical," said Welsh, as opposed to Capitol's program, which is "more applied with more laboratory work."

Senior courses cover pretty much the same material, but the orientation is different, said Welsh.

"Engineering programs are designed more to answer why things happen. We also answer why but also look at how and



Photo by Jeffrey G. Shatzer

Terry Kelley, Engineering Lab Supervisor, demonstrates a large drill press in the Machine Lab where parts necessary for senior projects can be manufactured.

what to do with it when you go to work," said Welsh.

Senior technology students are required to build, design and demonstrate a project further, allowing them to actually apply theory learned in the classroom, he added.

Welsh also said that indications from students who have graduated from the technology program are that they have had an easier time adapting to the world of work because they have a little better understanding of what the work is like.

Technology degrees, however, are not unique to Capitol. According to Welsh there were approximately 8,000 technology degrees granted in 1982 nationwide, and

Capitol's program was ranked third or fourth.

But, said Coordinator of Career Planning and Placement Peg O'Hara, "From day one we tell students we are not preparing them for graduate school, but for the world of work."

But then how does the engineering world view the technology degree?

"I've never had any of our programs questioned except technology," said O'Hara, "but that's because its so totally different. A lot of engineers have never heard of it even in this day and age."

However, according to O'Hara other companies have thoroughly evaluated our technology program and said it is to be treated as any other engineering program in the country.

Although a few technology graduates may have had difficulty obtaining jobs with companies not familiar with the degree, O'Hara said:

"In the long run there is good reason for the technology program. There are enough companies who do recognize the degree to compensate."

(Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles analyzing Capitol's degree programs.)

anything in art supplies
 Calligraphy • Artists Colors
 Airbrush • Drafting
 Fine Art Papers

Penn graphics
 Supply Co.
 921 Eisenhower Blvd. 939-7833
 8-5:30 p.m. Weekdays
 9-2:00 p.m. Saturday

Fox's Markets

Visit Fox's Famous Deli

**Tender Aged Western Beef
 Lunch Meats and Cheese Fresh Sliced to Order**

You'll find what you're looking for at Fox's

**Full variety in all departments
 Plus our famous In-store Bakery**

You get goodies hot from our oven

**Middletown
 101 South Union Street
 944-7486**

Hershey
 731 Cherry Drive

Union Deposit
 Union Deposit Mall

Hours:
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Thursday and Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.