

APPENDIX B—PROGRAM VIABILITY ANALYSIS

All programs should be continually reviewed for their effectiveness in meeting the training needs of industry, as well as in fulfilling the mission of the college. Programs failing to meet these needs should be subject to review for viability. The outcome of the review may involve program revision or elimination. Many factors are considered during this process:

1. Is enrollment adequate? Each program has an established average enrollment number that is determined by the college, in collaboration with the faculty, program director, and advisory committee, following analysis of the program curriculum needs: facility and equipment availability, safety factors, and the optimal number of students that the instructor(s) can successfully manage at one time. Is this established average enrollment figure being met?
2. Does the program meet industry standards? Are the industry-validated competencies being successfully met by program graduates? If industry certification/formal recognition exists, has the program achieved said certification/formal recognition?
3. Are there sufficient employment opportunities for program graduates, and are graduates obtaining employment in the field?
4. Does the program prepare completers access to living wage employment in an in-demand field?
5. Are there career advancement opportunities available for those graduates who perform successfully on the job?
6. Is the program advisory committee actively involved and supportive of the program?
7. Is the program sustainable based on enrollment, completion, and financial data?
8. Other factors may be determined during the process that may impact program viability.

While enrollment is a key factor considered in the review process, all factors listed above are important considerations and any of them could be a determinant for program viability even though adequate enrollment may exist.