

Wisconsin 2010 Two Year College Physics Report

2010 marked the third year of the implementation of the new state wide physics curriculum for associate degree programs at Wisconsin's two-year technical colleges. Prior to 2007, each Technical College had their own unique courses with different course numbers. This change accompanied a change in the state definition of the requirements for an associate degree in the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS).

Recently I did an informal analysis of the long term impact by looking at the Web sites of the 16 Technical College Schools. I could not get enrollment numbers but I did look at (1) programs that require a physics course and (2) class schedules. From my preliminary analysis, it appears that there has been a significant drop in physics enrollment in our system. My best estimate is that, since I starting teaching at NTC (30 years), physics enrollment at Technical Colleges in Wisconsin has dropped by 50 to 66%, the major drop occurring in the last ten years.

On a brighter note, the AAPT has created a discussion group specifically for physics instructors at two year colleges. To get enrolled in this discussion group you must be a member of AAPT. The enrollment process is simply to go to the AAPT web site (www.aapt.org), click on the **Resources** button, go to the bottom of the page to click on the link to the 2-year college discussion forum and answer a few simple questions. I have been a member of the discussion group for about six weeks and the topics have ranged from issues peculiar to the two year colleges (i.e. Effect of adjunct instructors at two year colleges) to general topics that all college professors could be interested in (i.e. Order of topics in an introductory algebra based physics course). I encourage all two year college professors to belong to this group.

Respectfully Submitted



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