



B.S. Industrial Technology (BSIT)

Program Testimonials by NCCCS Faculty and Administrators

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY



“Balancing work, family, and education wasn't easy, but **ECU's BSIT program empowered me to achieve my academic goals - earning both my bachelor's and master's degrees.** The supportive staff and faculty were always available, creating an open communication channel that I truly valued.

This program proved to be a springboard for my career. After graduation, I transitioned into the classroom at the community college level, giving back to my local community by educating future generations. **My journey continued with a promotion to Department Chair, and eventually, Dean. Reflecting on this path, I realize that ECU's BSIT equipped me not only with technical expertise but also with invaluable project management skills - both crucial for thriving in leadership roles.”**

- **Chris Herring**

Academic Dean

Computer & Information Technology Programs

Fayetteville Technical Community College

“Over the many years I have been a community college education administrator within North Carolina, the **ECU BSIT** is **number one** for making their programs accessible to working adults in very technical fields of biotechnology, IT, business and others.

I can attest to both the **monetary value** of the BSIT education as well as the exceptional **return on investment**. I have been a partner with them in sending transfer students, this includes both the BSIT degree and their Masters degrees.

No one does it better than ECU! The BSIT program is the gateway, and the rest of the programs - Masters, PhD - are all complementary and WILL lead you to success.

Trust the faculty, trust the coursework, trust the process. And **TRUST** the **TRANSFER** - Go Pirates.”

- **Leslie Isenhour**

Dean, Biotechnologies and NC BioNetwork Capstone Center
Wake Technical Community College
MS Technology Management c/o 2020
BSIT Adjunct Faculty





“The coursework and instructors were awesome and top-notch. I was able to maintain a great work/life/school balance. The advisors were always willing to help. It was the launch pad to help me become a better instructor and the new Program Director for Cyber Crime and Security at CFCC in 2019.”

“Every student who has left CFCC and gone through the BSIT program at ECU has had great success in their career. We have students who have gone on to become CSOs, Analysts, System Admins, Network Engineers, and more.”

“To sum it up in one short sentence: I give the BSIT program @ ECU 5 stars and 2 thumbs up!”

- Greg Vandergriff

Cyber Crime Technology Program Director
Cape Fear Community College

“In the Biotechnology Department, our partnership with ECU has been instrumental in creating a **seamless pathway for our students to advance their education and careers.**”

ECU's online BSIT program is accessible to people working full-time and **gives maximum credits** from their community college AAS degree.

This pathway allows our students to **grow as technical experts** and provides them with the foundational skills needed to **grow into industry leaders.**”

- Lisa Smelser, EdD

Department Chair, Biotechnology
Centra Carolina Community College



I started the BSIT program when I was the Lead Instructor in Electronics Engineering Technology. This program has allowed me to grow as a person and employee. ***The skills I developed in the BSIT program at ECU were instrumental in teaching me how to be the best supervisor and mentor to my faculty. The mentorship I got from the faculty taught me more than any of the employment situations I have been in.***

One of the classes had us read a book, "Extreme Ownership". As a fellow Vet, this book was very interesting. It also taught me that we should all take ownership in the things around us that have not gone according to plan. Figure out what you could and should have done differently to make the situation better. Never make it someone else's fault. ***Dr. Mehta taught me to love spreadsheets like no one could ever. I now do everything on a spreadsheet.***

Upon graduating, I immediately was accepted into the MSTM Degree Program. Since graduating from the MSTM, ***I have become the Department Chair of 6 technology programs. I supervise 9 full time and 6 part time faculty.*** Dr. Das was my advisor on my practicum project. He was very helpful in keeping me on the correct path to accomplish the mission.

I greatly appreciate all that he and the other professors did to teach me and my fellow students. ***The professors at ECU care about the whole student, not just the grade. I will always have great admiration for all the professors at ECU. ARGH!***

- Sandra Castonguay

*Department Chair, Information and Engineering Technology
Central Carolina Community College*





“My personal journey started as a manufacturing apprentice straight out of high school. I earned my associate degree while navigating through various technical roles and leadership positions. I found my true passion in engineering and desire to pursue a career in education. Choosing to pursue my bachelor of science degree in the BSIT program at East Carolina University was a pivotal decision for me. **It provided me with the opportunity for advancement and to further develop my skills as an instructor & academic advisor. Even as a distance education student, ECU provided a welcoming environment with supportive instructors and advisors. Having the ability to attend events on campus like any other student enhanced my experience & made me feel like a true Pirate.**

The instructors at ECU truly stand out for their dedication and care towards their students. They not only imparted valuable knowledge but also fostered a conducive learning environment where I felt encouraged to excel. I am grateful for the transformative experience at ECU, which not only equipped me with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in my career but also instilled in me a sense of purpose to contribute positively to the field of engineering. I take great pride in instilling these principles in my students. **I highly recommend East Carolina University to anyone seeking a supportive academic environment and a platform to unlock their full potential.**

- **Richard Harrison**

Applied Engineering Instructor, Academic Advisor
Wilson Community College

"I have been teaching students enrolled in a technology/CTE pathway for an AAS degree since 2000. Many times my students wanted to transfer to a 4-year university. In the early years, most of those transfer options were disappointing as they only offered students credit for 5 – 6 courses earned in their AAS degrees. Most students could not afford to "start over" with a 4-year degree due to time and budget constraints.

Many technology courses at the universities had theory-based curricula with little or no hands-on training. Most of the classes were only offered as seated. Very few colleges/universities recognized credit for Cisco CCNA, Windows, computer hardware, and other technology courses. AAS degrees were considered "terminal", and the next expected step was to enter the workforce.

Dr. Batts recognized the value of an AAS degree and created a **gateway for AAS graduates to pursue a world-class 4-year degree in a technology field at ECU. The BSIT transfer program offers students several options, especially recognizing the flexibility in scheduling that nontraditional students may need.**

AAS students and their advisors have access to detailed documentation on the transfer requirements and how to plan ahead. If students have any questions about the BSIT transfer program, Dr. Batts and Amy Frank are available to speak with the students or the AAS advisors.

We are so fortunate to have Dr. Batts as a learning partner for our AAS students."



- Kathy Knight

IT Faculty

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College





“After deciding to make a major career change, I attended Forsyth Tech Community College earning a degree in Computer Integrated Machining and a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technologies.

I truly enjoy teaching; however, I felt that to become the instructor my students deserve, I needed to continue with my education and gain my bachelors and eventually my masters. Admittedly, I was apprehensive about online coursework; however, **ECU and its Professors have made the transition smooth and simple.** I have enjoyed all the classes I have taken thus far, and I look forward to earning my BSIT and MSTM as a student through the **accelerated BS to MS option.** My hope is to take what I learn though ECU and become a better instructor and leader.

I have had many current and past students ask me about the BSIT program at ECU, and **I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending the program to them. I am proud to call myself a Pirate!**”

- **Leslie Nagy**

Computer Integrated Machining Program Coordinator
Forsyth Technical Community College

“ECU’s BSIT program is a great next step for our students that graduate with an AAS in Cybersecurity or Networking from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. **Many of our students have taken advantage of the online option, which has allowed them to continue their education while working full-time in Rowan or Cabarrus counties.** The academic advisors at ECU’s College of Engineering and Technology have been instrumental in guiding these students and supporting them through their time at ECU. **These students have told us that there wasn’t any fear of the unknown,** as their classes at RCCC also used NetLab for online simulations and provided students with the foundations needed to be successful in the BSIT program.

After hearing of our student’s success at ECU, **we have built a learning module into many of our 1st year courses. This module explains the BSIT program and its advantages, such as a seamless transfer of their AAS credits.** Our IT faculty help students map out a clear path to meet the BSIT prerequisites, which eliminates any guesswork or delays. We want to save our students time, and we want them to feel prepared and confident as they continue their education. If there is a question that we do not know the answer to, **an email to Dr. Batts or Amy Frank is returned in a timely manner with a thorough answer.**

- Aimee Durham

Program Chair, Networking and Cybersecurity
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

