Bachelor of Science in
Operations Management (BSOM)

Overview
The need for entry-level technical managers within the region historically has been very strong, particularly in advanced manufacturing industries. The spring 2011 announcement of the closure of the Electronics and Manufacturing Engineering Technology programs was a setback for many companies who specifically sought graduates from these well-respected programs. To continue to meet these human resource needs in the state and region, the solution was to invest in the existing but underfunded Industrial Management program.

In the past six months, we have been able to take full advantage of this opportunity to reengineer Industrial Management while strengthening linkages within the Engineering Technology and Management department to the Construction Management program to effectively leverage faculty, facilities, and staffing resources. The result is a robust applied management program, aptly named Operations Management (BSOM), that will meet the needs of our constituents in the manufacturing, electronics, and related technical service sectors.

Constituent Expectations
There were four types of constituents who provided input on the program update and departmental strategy: employers, alumni, academic program leaders, and accrediting bodies. While each had specific requests and/or expectations, there were common themes and content areas that emerged during the comment period. These include:
- Able to lead process development and improvement projects
- Effectively use software appropriate for the discipline
- Problem solving and productivity improvement skills
- Personal effectiveness, time and resource management
- Professional writing and communications

Specific competency areas for the Electronics emphasis are:
- Circuits, digital & analog electronics
- Networks, microcontrollers, PCBs & CAD
- Industrial controls, PLCs

Specifics competency areas for the Manufacturing emphasis are:
- Lean, 6 Sigma, DoE, quality management systems
- Processes: development and analysis
- Workplace safety, operations management

Accreditation Plan
The BSOM will initiate the accreditation process after the first meeting of the new departmental advisory council in spring 2012. The intention is to seek ABET accreditation under the Applied Sciences Accreditation Commission (ASAC) at the earliest possible time, most likely in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Next Steps
1. Meetings with local and regional constituents to roll out the new curriculum.
2. New advisory council convenes.
4. Update outcomes assessment plan and metrics.