

2008 Alumni Survey Comments

<p>The paper science program was very challenging that required team work and networking which I continue to use in my current position. I really enjoy my current position and have been very successful doing it.</p>
<p>The Paper Science program was going through transition while I was there (professors coming and going), which resulted in some inconsistency. Also, the Paper Science program assistant in my last couple of years made communication with potential employers difficult at times. However, I value all of the experience I gained from my co-op/internship opportunities. I feel that these opportunities are the most valuable part of the Paper Science program in preparing for a future career in the paper industry. I am pleased with my current job and I obtained this job in part due to an internship experience with the company.</p>
<p>I really enjoyed going to Point for school. There still isn't anything else I would rather do than be in the Paper Industry and it all started with the Paper Science program.</p>
<p>The program did NOT prepare us for what we would experience once we graduated--it's a lot different than a coop or internship. If I would have known then what I know now about the paper industry, I would have gone to Madison or elsewhere for a 68real68 engineering degree. On the very first day of class, students need to be apprised of just what they are going to be in for so they can change their minds (and majors) if they so choose. Since I graduated in 2000 and there's no category on the next page for it, I marked 2002.</p>
<p>More development in the management of people would be a great addition to the curriculum. Definitely a weakness for young managers.</p>
<p>I look back with fond memories of UWSP and the Paper Science Program. The Paper Science curriculum provide a great balance of challenging courses, work experiences (co-op and internships), 68field trips68 to mills and conferences, and a small class size very beneficial to learning and teamwork. I was rewarded with a great job after school and lifelong friendships.</p>
<p>My education has really allowed me to excel in all roles before & after graduation. The internship opportunities were top notch and really allowed me to see the light at the end of the tunnel. A 68paper science68 degree really understates the broad engineering background I've received and I am continuously told I have strong technical skills. I'm very happy I was able to move across disciplines into the more stable Env Eng field. My career has reignited after working for sinking ships since college. My only criticism of the program is too much emphasis on research background in the dept professors. Hands on experienced industry folks are hard to come by, but add great value to the classroom. I'd like to see more balance (though I'm not up to date on current faculty--speaking from 99 grad).</p>
<p>I think that it would be beneficial to include a more in depth class related to environmental protection/EPA guidelinesI liked the smaller class sizes at UWSP because it allows for more one-on-one interaction with professorsI thought all the professors in the Paper Science program were very knowledgable about various topics not just related to paper</p>
<p>I feel that UWSP Paper Science is the best overall program for industry preparedness, technically relevant classes, and program facilitation for students to get industry related interns and co-ops that USWP offers. No one that I knew at Stevens Point could match their major against mine for the dedication and diligence that our paper science faculty showed for preparing and securing our careers. I was extremely happy with the experience and individual help that the professors gave us during my stay. Even in the toughest of job environments in 2003, our department was able to make contacts with companies and students to match them up with careers well into the summer and following fall until all students secured a position. They trained us in technical skills, people skills, as well as etiquette, business conversation, networking, resume building, and interviewing skills. I am grateful that I went into paper science and look forward to them achieving their engineering accreditation. Thank you UWSP for all that you have done.</p>

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<p>Overall, a good program. I was not prepared for the level of math required for graduate school, however. The math courses I took at UWSP were probably adequate, but the difficult part of grad school was applying that math to the science field. However, the grad school courses primarily involved mathematical modelling of complex situations that is more advanced than necessary for most paper related fields (with the possible exception of R&D positions).</p>
<p>I am very proud of the education I received at UWSP and through the Paper Science department. It gave me the tools to start my career and be able to continuously improve myself in my daily life, at work and at home.</p>
<p>Have to say that the Paper Science Program/ UWSP prepared myself well for my career in the paper/ pulp industry.</p>
<p>Enjoyed attending UWSP as a full time student in the Paper Science program! I believe the program provided a good foundation for a career in the Paper Industry. I have enjoyed working for two different companies since I graduated. Particularly enjoy working for my current employer because of their training/development program, Six Sigma rigor in project work and good people to work with all the way from Corporate to plant level!</p>
<p>The Paper Science program is an exceptional program that teaches engineering courses not only in the classroom but in the work force through the co-op and internship programs. I am excited that the Paper Science and Engineering program is pursuing accreditation as a general engineering program. I graduated in 1999. Please correct the answer to the next survey question.</p>
<p>The program in and of itself did a very good job of getting students out in the workplace. We had a relatively large class at the time and we all got a position which was most important whether we stayed in it or not. Without the experience we would have been looked upon by paper management as run of the mill Chem E's or even worse Mechanical engineers. Paper Science is a strong pedigree which allows its students to relate to the issues surrounding paper industry at a greater level and timeliness. Much of the background knowledge is already within the graduate, causing that person to escalate to a working level faster than those without the background. There is no better way to create an atmosphere of teamwork. My personal experience was that there were 31 graduates and 27 life long friends created out of it. We will likely always run into those people with a smile, ready to work with each other if the opportunity came around.</p>
<p>Although I no longer work in the paper industry. My studies in Paper Science provided me with a strong engineering background. This has enabled me to apply for and pass the New York State Professional Engineering (PE) licensing exam on the first try, as soon as my work experience requirements were met (a minimum of 12 years work experience was required due to a degree in Science related to Engineering). I also found my background and work experience in the paper industry and consulting to be very beneficial in preparing and passing the exam for the Certified Hazardous Material Manager (CHMM) certification. My degree in Paper Science, and my interactions with the Professors in Paper Science and at UWSP, taught me how to present my ideas, solve complex problems on my own and in collaboration with others, and how to interact with people from the floor through the CEO's position.</p>
<p>Program did a good job preparing students for first job. Communication and technical writing had strong emphasis. Lack of hands on paper machine opportunities was a disadvantage that has been addressed with pilot machine. Would have liked more hands on training with pumps, valves, etc. Also, more time on control engineering would have been beneficial.</p>
<p>I am glad to see the program seeking accreditation for the engineering program. I feel this will open doors for future graduates both in and outside of the paper industry.</p>
<p>The basis of teaching students through the UWSP Paper Science program is respectable. Overall, I would like to see more classes that are pertinent to the industry and the</p>

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<p>everchanging market place. A focus towards communication skills, relaying of ideas and brainstorming solutions to problems would be beneficial as well.</p>
<p>Technically, I was well prepared for the position that I got immediately following graduation - Process Engineer. More important in my mind than the class material, class length, course selection, is the way in which the material was presented. We were taught to interact, gather data, solve problems. The single biggest asset is someone that can continually learn. Most UWSP - Paper Science grads are capable of continually learning new technical skills, which makes them an even bigger asset than a technically sharp individual who does well inside a certain capacity. UWSP taught us to think, ask, and learn as individuals and in group settings.</p>
<p>UWSP is a great school full of opportunities. The Paper Science Program was a great career path choice at the time because the paper industry was doing very well. Today, students have a tough choice going into Paper Science because of the downturn of the industry and it limits a person's flexibility to move into other industry areas because it is so specialized towards paper.</p>
<p>well prepared for work in industry upon graduation with some exceptions on the technical side of things-definitely needs to be more of a focus area</p>
<p>The number and quality of students has dropped off. This is to be expected with the decline in the industry. In 10 years or so, this will impact the industry negatively. I don't see many young guns coming up through the ranks. I am 41 years old and I don't have young talent coming behind me. When the 50 year olds move onto retirement, we'll be scrambling.</p>
<p>I wish I would have had some exposure to Finance and Accounting. This would be more valuable than the Economics course we took. Secondly, I think accreditation is a great thing. Many folks at area mills understand the degree and course work, but I find in a smaller mill or outside the industry, people tend to think of a BS in Paper Science more like a tech school degree in fiber physics than an engineering pursuit. I also think it will attract more students</p>
<p>I have fond memories of my time at UWSP. I thought the university and the faculty of the Paper Science department did a good job in preparing me for my career. The career has been challenging, the Paper Industry has suffered hard times in the last 8-10 years. It has taken a toll on the desire of others to get a PS degree and work in our industry. WE STILL NEED GOOD YOUNG TALENT! However I think adapting the program to include more emphasis on bio-energy,energy, or automation in general would be a good move.</p>
<p>The greatest benefit of the Paper Science program to me was my co-op experience. While obtaining the basic knowledge of engineering was important, it was the real world experience that helped to put the book knowledge to use. The program is better since I went through it with the addition of the paper machine. It's rare to be able to work in a mill and be able to change parameters on a machine without causing a lot of lost production. It is by seeing the effect of machine changes where a person learns the most.As for the paper industry in general, I was fortunate to get a job in the area eighteen years ago. Throughout those years I saw the decline of operations with continuous job cuts as each new owner came up with the latest and greatest plan to make the mills profitable. Last year I finally had enough of the do more with less philosophy at the Domtar mills in Port Edwards and Nekoosa Wisconsin, so I left in order to accomplish some personal goals that had been badly neglected while I was spending too much time at the mill. Some day I plan to get back in the industry, but I will be careful to choose a company that believes in investing in both the mill and their personnel.</p>
<p>I feel the Paper Science Program is one of the best in the country. However, I would recommend advising students to take general accounting/business classes for some of their GDR's. A general business management class would also be helpful.</p>
<p>I attended UWSP from '91 to '96, at that time there were a lot of students entering the</p>

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<p>program yearly and graduating 20 to 25 students per year. I felt that the program was very difficult, with technically sound classes and a heavy work load. It did however prepare you for entering the work force when you were done. I think that the ability to have a Co-op in the field you are studying is priceless and should be done with all fields of study. Also the fact that the school helps acquire summer jobs in the field is also an excellent opportunity to explore different mills, companies, and fields (sales). I am currently very happy with my position within Nalco. It has been a challenging career and keeps you on your toes daily. I rarely have a routine/boring day and I would not change that..</p>
<p>My education in the program was very good. I learned a great deal about problem solving and working as part of a team to solve problems. Although I don't work in the paper field any longer, problem solving is problem solving anywhere you go. Thus I believe my education at UWSP is still benefiting my employee and I.</p>
<p>The paper science program was solid in the engineering concepts and pulp and paper industry methods, unit operations, specific chemistries, and general machinery. The research and reporting emphasis was very helpful, but over-emphasized. Out of the gate we could analyze problems, evaluate test methods, write reports, etc. The co-op and internships were invaluable, and brought the course concepts into perspective. Some ideas for re-tooling or course concepts might be: 1. better process control labs and simulations, 2. problem solving and quality control sources or seminars, and 3. Process and Instrument diagram concepts and mock P&ID projects. My work experience was fun and challenging, but my illness unfortunately interrupted my career. Thank you.</p>
<p>Great preparation for hands-on production managers: teamwork, troubleshooting, technical skills, communication. Need more maintenance and business training. Also should include Lean Six Sigma training, as everyone is going in that direction.</p>
<p>The UWSP campus was alright, some of the GDR courses were not very well run. The required communication class was useless, received better education on communication from Paper Science courses. The Paper Science program did do a good job, but some more hands on experience on the machine and more Trouble Shooting type exercises would have been more helpful in my career. For the most part I enjoy my job, sometimes the stress is a bit much. The overall health of the industry as a whole is very stressful at this time, especially in the state of Wisconsin where I would like to stay.</p>
<p>I believe we are very fortunate to have this program in our back yard. I was an honor to graduate from this program and I am proud of the degree earned. There are not many degrees you can receive from a small school that start at such a high income level.</p>
<p>I was, and am, impressed with the quality of the UWSP Paper Science experience. The program required an unusual dedication, a high degree of collaboration with my peers, and offered tremendous hands-on work experiences through the intern/co-op program. These experiences stand out as very impactful in preparing me for the challenge of the paper industry.</p>
<p>I adore UWSP and would recommend it to anybody. Paper Science was a good major for me, although at the time I was in school, I think the faculty were a little too fat and happy. They seemed lazy at times, and it was just assumed that they had to do very little for their students to succeed. Then hard times hit the major and the industry the year after I left, and I think the program had to rethink priorities. What I've heard of the program the last 5 years is much improved over my experience. Good work and getting things turned around.</p>
<p>I really enjoyed UWSP as a school. I thought the paper science and chemistry departments in particular are very good. The paper science department played an important role in preparing me for my career as a chemical engineer. I also thought the paper science department did a very good job helping students find quality career opportunities. I have worked a broad range of engineering positions since graduating</p>

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(some paper related and some not) and feel my schooling prepared me well regardless of job role.
The UWSP Paper Science Program does a good job teaching students the science part of making paper. However, the reality is that a small part of a Process Engineer's time is spent using science skills. A huge part of working in a mill is interacting with and communicating with operators, maintenance, and leadership. Another area Process Engineers spend alot of time is understanding the economics of papermaking and helping their respective companies improve margins. Perhaps a senior level Paper Science course should cover topics such as papermaking economics and how to effectively lead hourly and salary resources. More emphasis on designed experiments in the sophomore Statistics course would also be beneficial.
Based on working with colleagues from other UW engineering schools, I believe the paper science program gives enough tools to be competitive in the market place.
I enjoyed my time at UWSP, perhaps a little to much. The paper science program and UWSP helped me develop as a professional and as a individual. One comment I have about the curriculum is to get freshman some first hand experience in a paper mill. Try to create more opportunities for summer internships for all classes (even if it's sweeping floors or holding a hose). The more time a student spends in that environment the better off they are.Hunter Propsom
I think the coop and intern experiences were much more valuable than the coursework itself. Excellent technical writing and presentation practice during school, but not great with actual paper machine work. Spent very little time on the paper machine on campus.
The paper science program provided a broad overview of the paper industry, along with detailed courses on specific areas of paper manufacture. The coop and summer intern experiences are invaluable and need to be continued. The UWSP Paper Science did an excellent job of providing students of all levels opportunities to find coop and intern employment. The paper program at UWSP isn't so specifice that you are railroaded into one niche in the paper industry. It provides for opportunities in Production, Technical, Sales, Service, and R&D to mention a few.
The Paper Science program provided the skills needed for my career in the paper industry.
On the whole, the UWSP Paper Science Program prepared me very well for my future in the industry. The core classes provided a solid background; however, I do wish that more time was spent on the pilot machine and ,Áúhands on,Àù papermaking. I realize that this is no small task and the PM is expensive to run but this would have tied a real life relevance to the academics.
The curriculum at UWSP prepared me well for a career in the Paper industry. The Paper Science program prepared me very well to be a team contributor and leader. The diverse classes taught me the importance of good preparation and documentation while also teaching me to be good at thinking on my feet.
Although I do not work in the Paper Industry anymore, I am glad the department is seeking ABET accreditation. It will help the department to gain credibility and to make students more employable (outside the industry if necessary) as the industry continues to consolidate.
I believe the greatest strength of the UWSP Paper Sci program is the many oppourtunities it gives students to meet and interact with companies and people in the paper industry, including the co-op program. These oppourtunities are somewhat unique to the Paper Sci program.
The Paper Science degree is an excellent introduction to the paper industry as a whole. The school provides the students with general understanding to the paper world and provides adequate engineering tools that can be used every day in the job field in and out of the paper industry.
UWSP did an excellent job at education for the paper industry - the value of the internship

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<p>programs, educational training, & job placement assistance was very good. The effort placed on job placement(resume preparation, interview schedule, employer visits) was extremely valuable.</p>
<p>If I had to do it all over again - Not sure I'd go into the paper industry, but if I did I would choose the UWSP Paper Science program.</p>
<p>Engineering problems were helpful throughout the program. Education could be improved by individualizing primary paper mill operations. Perhaps more thorough training courses on the dryer section, pulper operations, stock prep operations, boiler operations. I work for a smaller mill so I am able to work on projects in every part of the mill from the boiler to the winder, which has been outstanding.</p>
<p>The industry has certainly changed over the past 11 years! Graduating in 1997 and working for Consolidated I did not imagine that I would have worked for a Finnish company and travel to Europe 10 times over the course of 5 years! The degree has certainly provided a great life for myself and my family. We are certainly fortunate to be where we are today. Despite a good career path thus far, there are areas where the program could improve based on my experience over the years. 1. More business type emphasis would be helpful as every aspect of our jobs are cost or dollar related. Examples may include some of the basics like fixed vs. variable costs, EBIDTA, % IRR, etc. 2. More customer emphasis and finished product exposure would be useful. I know the customer is difficult to define, but maybe a tour to Quad Graphics in Lomira, WI or even a local print house may prove useful. 3. Finally, more emphasis in the HR area would also be useful. Some of the new engineers are thrown to the wolves as a shift supervisor right out of school. Basic management skills such as dealing with difficult employees, etc. might be a useful tool as most if not all of the PS grads will quickly face this type of challenge immediately out of school.</p>
<p>Completing the UWSP Paper Science program was a rewarding experience. The discipline and people skills I learned at school and during my internships helped prepare me for my career. I am a 1999 graduate and still kepp in touch with several of my classmates.</p>
<p>This is an excellent program that prepares students for careers within the paper industry, but with the current state of the industry, getting a more generalized degree in Chemical, Mechanical, or Electrical engineering may be a better option for future students.</p>
<p>Excellent program, prepared me well for work in industry. I worked in the paper industry for 10 years, then transferred within the same company to different positions in Nonwovens and personal care products areas. Within my first year of employment I used calculus to estimate some production losses, something management wanted for some time, and my education enabled me to deliver!</p>
<p>I enjoyed my experience at UWSP and it prepared me to have a rewarding career in the industry. I have had numerous opportunities as part of my degree/job that I would not likely have had in other industries. The program must continue to evolve as the industry does to remain a usefull preparatory tool. I hope it does as I continue to hire students from the program.</p>
<p>I am very happy to be a Paper Science alumni. The faculty in the department was very helpful. The curriculum in the program was well-structured to groom us for the industry.</p>
<p>Its been almost 20 years but I do wish we could have been acredited with a chemical engineering degree. I also feel having a short course on Paper industry financial analysis and labor relations would have been helpful. Local industry representatives could teach these in 4, 2 hours night classes just to the seniors.</p>
<p>The program prepared me for all the jobs I've had over the years.</p>
<p>I really enjoyed the paper science program and am happy to find out that there will be a credentialing program for engineering. This will open the oportunities to other jobs and different industries.</p>
<p>I graduated in 1993 with an exceptional class. Overall the quality of the coarsework was</p>

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<p>very good and it prepared me to work within the paper industry. As I gained experience working with people, I could very easily work in other manufacturing setting. The quality of the students coming out of this program are very good. They have excellent computer and troubleshooting skills. Better then the class that I was a part of. These skills needed to be developed on the job. I am very happy with my choice of academics.</p>
<p>The Paper Science program did an excellent job of preparing me to not only perform, but quickly contribute as an employee in the industry. The course work did a great job of weeding out those that did not take the industry seriously or were there for the wrong reasons. Combined with the Co-Op / summer experiences, which allowed for a wide variety of manufacturing and allied industry opportunities, I was able to produce quality work product right away, assist in the profitability and leadership of the mill I worked at, and quickly advance to positions of higher responsibility. In six years I was promoted five times (from Process Engineer to Fiberline Superintendent). UWSP's Paper Science program prepared me to take on these new challeges quickly. Though I am no longer presently actively employed in the industry, my new career as an Intellectual Property Attorney is constructed on the foundation created by the Paper Science program, department, and faculty. All I can say is Thank You. You all unlocked the doors of opportunity, all I had to do was open them and walk through.</p>
<p>The Paper Science Program at the time of my attendance was leading edge in the use of personal PC and gave me an advantage. More business skills should have been included or required. The staff at the time was superb, Dr. Michael Kocurek, Dr. Graham, Dr. Abubkar, Dr. Ring.</p>
<p>Great Program! Even though I'm out of the paper industry, it prepared me for many oportunites.</p>
<p>Fellow employees from UWSP are better prepared for the paper industry then employees from other institutions.</p>
<p>I value the education I received from UWSP as a whole and the Paper Science program in particular.</p>
<p>I feel that a lot of the classes weren't necessary, and that most of what I do on a daily basis I've learned since graduating.</p>
<p>I received my PE license from the State of WI in 2003, even though I live and work in MN. I was not able to get licensed in MN as I did not have enough core engineering class while at UWSP. Classes such as statics, dynamics, diff eq. were missing. WI was willing to look at job experience in addition to formal education.</p>
<p>I am very happy and proud to have a degree in Pulp & Paper Science from UWSP. I feel that I received a very quality education that very well prepared me for the real world.</p>
<p>My overall experience with the Paper Science program was very good. I have a few suggestions to improve the effectiveness of each graduate leaving the program.- Require a basic statistics course.- Incorporate Six Sigma Green Belt certification into the program or at the minimum cover the basic concepts. This could be accomplished through offering a course in the 2nd semester leading into the final summer intern. Partner with various engineering technical leaders to develop meaningful interns that deliver projects that meet the Six Sigma requirements.- Encourage students to take ecomomics or business courses. An MBA is a good suggestion.Thank you.</p>