Piedmont Technical College

Fall 2015 Volume 5 • Issue 1

CareerFocus™

Not So Typical

Today's College Students Break Stereotypes

The Case for College

An Investment That's Worth the Pay-off

Welding

Relevant Training for a Rewarding Career

Getting a Head Start

Earn College Credit Through Dual Enrollment

Mechatronics

Cutting-Edge Skills for High-Demand Jobs in Manufacturing

Piedmont Technical College
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Greenwood, SC 29648

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Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (864) 941-8369. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864) 941-8669.

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Visit Piedmont Technical College on the Web at www.ptc.edu

Institutional Mission
Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College and Comprehensive Education System, is a public comprehensive two-year post-secondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,500 credit students. The College responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The College offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; developmental education programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed Continuing Education programs provide training for business and industry.

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CareerFocus™

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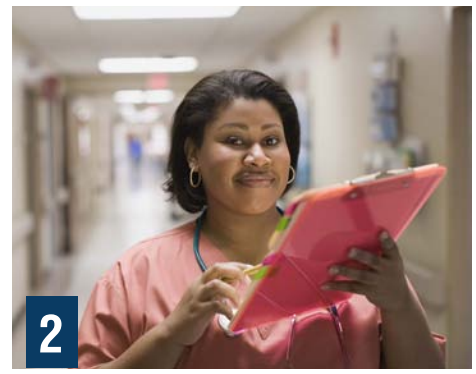

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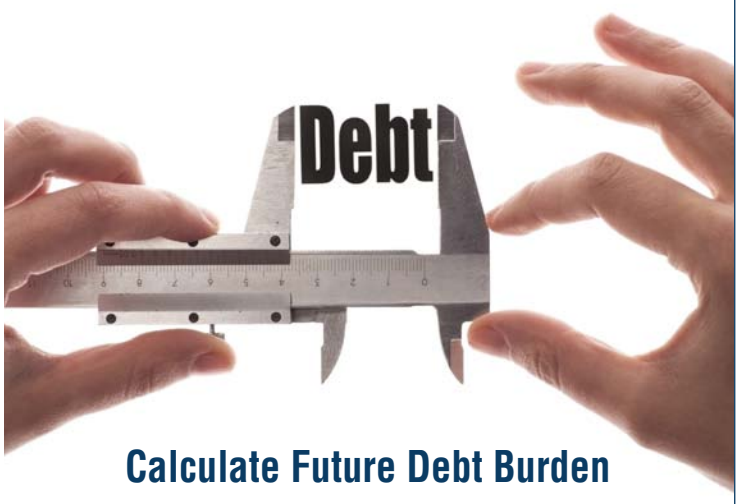
Get career and college tips anytime online at:

http://ptc.mycareerfocus.org

It's the easy way to share articles, access Piedmont Technical College Resources and get on the path to a new career.

Facts and Finds



Calculate Future Debt Burden

Student loan debt has more than tripled over the past decade, as both the number of borrowers and the size of the average balance have increased. Nearly three in four graduates today carry a sizeable debt along with their diplomas. For these borrowers, the typical balance is $26,500, according to the Hamilton Project, a research group based at the Brookings Institution.

The group built a debt repayment calculator based on an analysis of 80 college majors and post-graduation employment and wage trends. In general, over 10 years, the portion of a graduate's paychecks needed for repayment starts high and falls quickly as earnings grow. In the first year after college, as much as a quarter of earnings can go to debt servicing. By the sixth year, the Hamilton Project found repayment swallowed up between four and 11 percent of income.

Curious about the average loan repayment in your line of work? See for yourself: Hamiltonproject.org/student_loan_calculator/

Where the Jobs are Now

Skills in computer technology, medicine, and manufacturing will never go out of style.

That's what Michigan State University's 2014 nationwide hiring survey indicates, with employers looking to scoop up approximately 120,000 new graduates in technical fields. Most in-demand are those with degrees in STEM programs – science, technology, engineering, and math.

"Employers are recruiting new college graduates at levels not seen since the dot-com frenzy of 1999-2000," said Phil Gardner, director of MSU's Collegiate Employment Research Institute. "Competition for qualified candidates is escalating to a degree rarely seen in the past 10 years."

A separate study by Economic Modeling Specialists International, a division of job site CareerBuilder, confirms the findings, projecting the creation of 1.8 million new high-skill jobs by 2017. STEM jobs account for 38 percent of the new jobs, and are typically the highest paying across all industries."

The Michigan State survey finds six sectors of industry expect double-digit hiring for bachelor's degree holders: non-profits, manufacturing, government, professional services, finance and insurance, and information services all anticipate hiring increases of between 16 and 51 percent.

Staying Motivated, Lego-style

Keeping up your motivation in day-to-day tasks can be a challenge, especially if your work has few visible results. Author and Duke University Professor Dan Ariely says people are more willing to perform menial tasks when they feel their work is meaningful or they are recognized for their efforts.

In an experiment, Ariely and his collaborators at the Duke School of Business asked students to assemble figurines made out of Lego blocks. For half of the students, Ariely made the work "meaningful" by having their completed work displayed in their assembly area. "Even though this may not have been especially meaningful work, the students felt productive seeing all of those Bionicles lined up on the desk, and they kept on building them even when the pay was rather low," Ariely said.

The other half of the students were told to assemble their Lego figures, hand them off to a supervisor, who disassembled them in front of the students and put the blocks right back into a box. Needless to say, this group of students experienced a plummeting sense of motivation in their work.

The take-away? "Meaning, even a very small meaning, can matter a lot," comments Ariely. Students who could see their work built an average of 10.2 figurines, while those whose work was immediately taken apart assembled an average of 7.2.

In our own lives, work and chores can be frustrating because the fruits of our labors disappear so quickly – sometimes right before our eyes like the Lego figurines. Tess Wilson, writer for the home design site Apartmenttherapy.com, suggests adding something more tangible to your rotation of chores. While your sink full of dishes may never be done, something as simple as regularly arranging a vase of flowers can give you a psychological satisfaction to boost your motivation for completing your other chores.

Sources: "Man's Search for Meaning: The Case of Legos," Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 2008; Apartmenttherapy.com/the-lego-principle-why-housework-can-be-so-darn-frustrating-213102

"Even a Monkey Could Do That Job!"

Do you think you could do your boss's job? You're in the majority. An international poll conducted in November 2014 by job networking site Monster.com found that nearly nine out of 10 employees surveyed believed they could outperform their managers.

In the United States, a whopping 84 percent thought they could do better than their bosses! ■

Not-So-Typical

Today's College Students Break Stereotypes

If you think that most college students are fresh out of high school, young, carefree, and living at a university, you're wrong. In fact, 85 percent of college students today don't fit that mold. More often, the typical college student is living off campus, working full or part time, and juggling college with real-life responsibilities.

There are **20.2 MILLION** college students in the U.S. today

ONLY 14% attend a four-year college full time and live on-campus

40% Are over age 24

38% Are enrolled part time

50% Are seeking an associate degree or certificate

32% Work full time

26% Have financial dependents

46% Attend community college

41% Live with parents while attending college

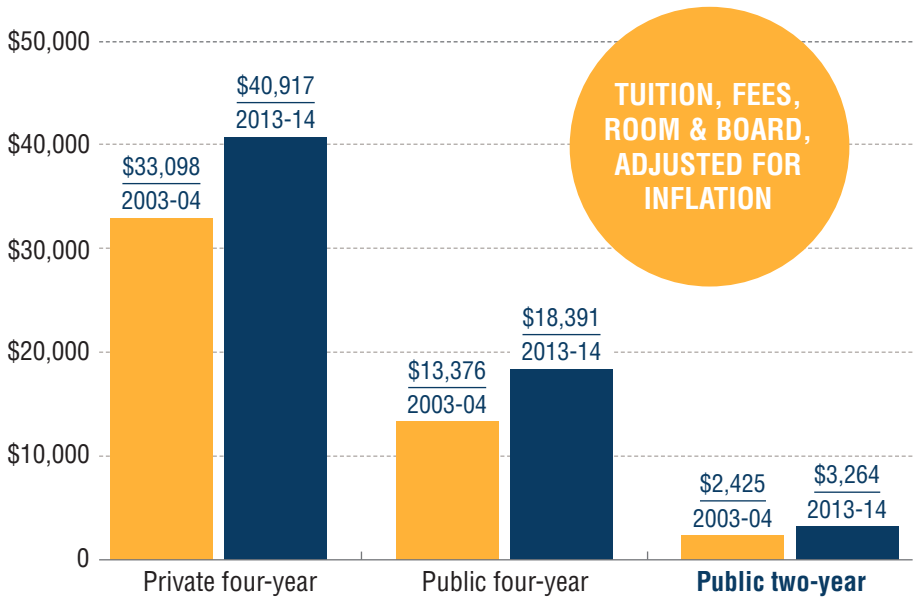
Sources: nces.ed.gov, chronicle.com "The New Traditional Student," theatlantic.com "Old School: College's most important trend is the rise of the adult student," usatoday.com "Degrees of Difficulty," www.aacc.nche.edu, buck.blogs.nytimes.com "More College Students Living at Home.")

The Case for College

Finding the Right Path for Your Education is Important and the Pay-off is Worth It

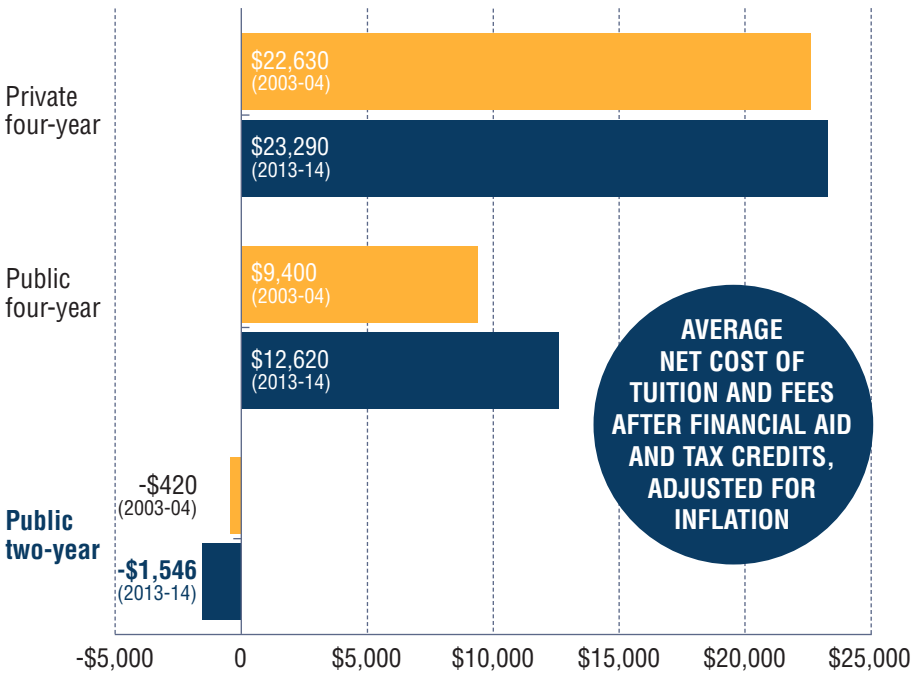
The cost of college is rising

College costs have increased sharply in the last decade. Since 2004, tuition and fees have risen by more than a quarter. Factor in room and board at four-year schools, and the price tag of a degree is dizzying.



Financial aid eases the pain

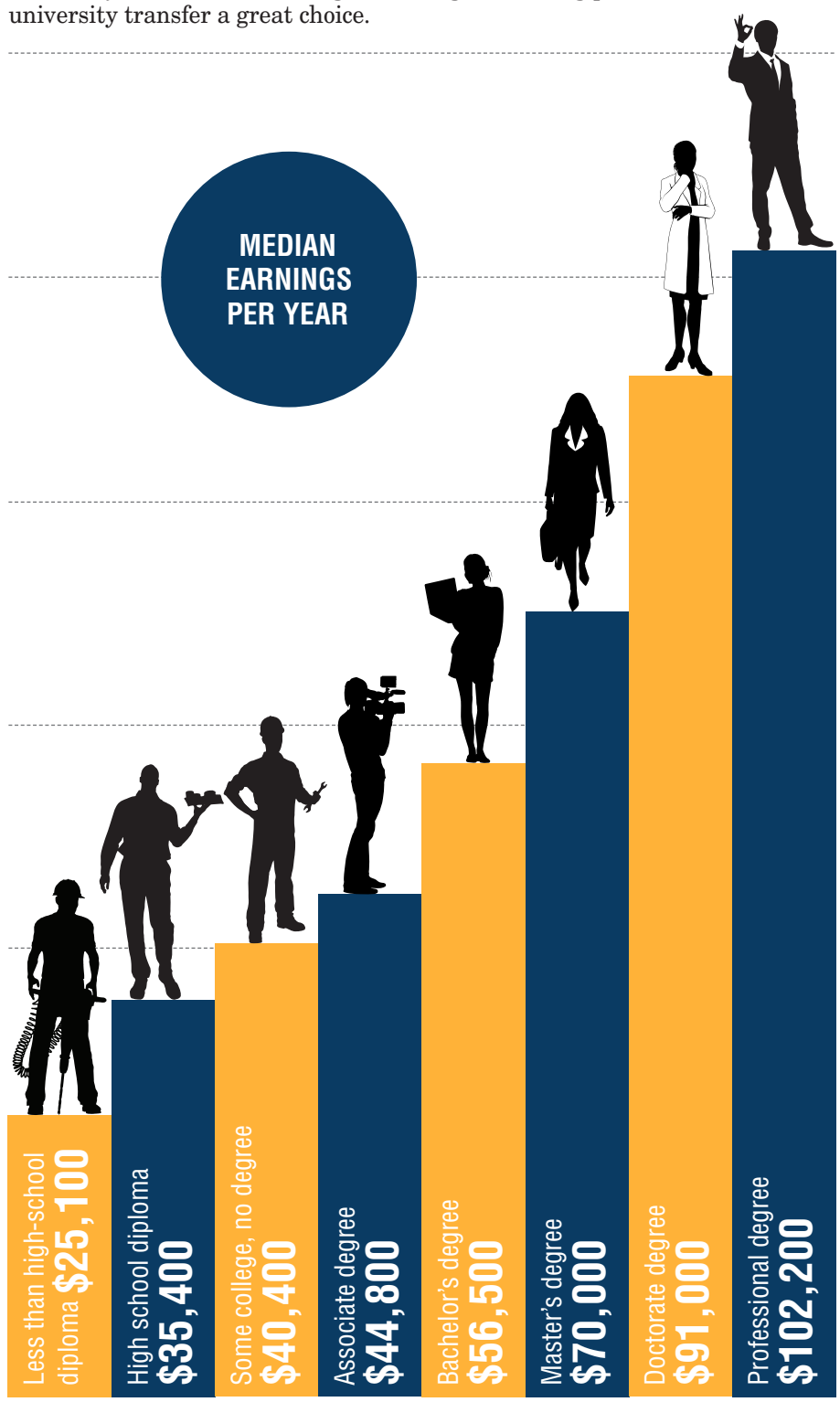
For many students, the actual cost of college is significantly reduced by financial aid and tax benefits. Because of changes in federal grant aid, on average, community college students cover their costs with money left over!



Source: The College Board, Trends in Student Aid 2013. Estimates in 2013 dollars.

More education means a bigger paycheck

Workers who start their path to a four-year degree at the community college level save big and graduate with less debt. These individuals also graduate with the same degree as those who go directly to a four-year college or university. These tuition savings and a higher earning potential, make university transfer a great choice.



Sources: The College Board, Education Pays 2013; US Census Bureau, The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings..

University Transfer:

A bachelor's Degree at Half the Cost

Each year, hundreds of students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Technical College to four-year colleges and universities all over the region. With more than 60 courses designed to transfer seamlessly, and with bridge programs and transfer agreements with many of South Carolina's major four-year institutions, PTC is the smart place to start work toward a bachelor's degree. Piedmont Tech students save thousands on tuition, and transfer coursework to their destination school without missing a beat.

How College Transfer Works

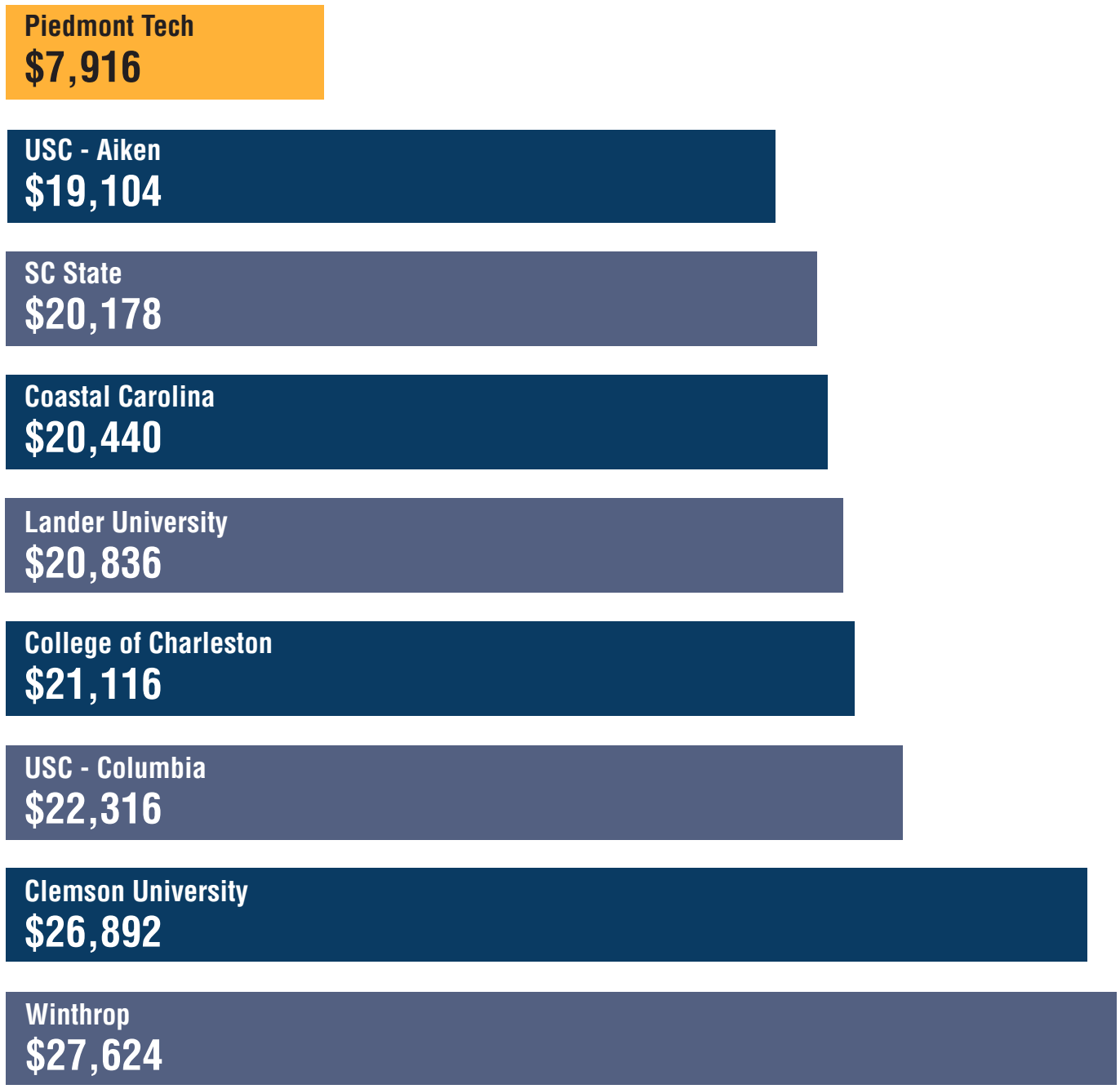
1. Enroll in one of our transfer degree programs, bridge programs or in a specific transfer pathway. Our transfer and admissions counselors will help you decide which is right for you, and will work with you to select the right courses.
2. Complete the required course work at Piedmont Tech.
3. Transfer to a four-year college or university to complete your studies. If you participate in one of our specific transfer programs, and meet the requirements, admission into your institution of choice is often guaranteed.

60+
Courses that Transfer to colleges such as Clemson, USC and Lander.

19+
bridge and transfer partnerships with four-year colleges and universities.

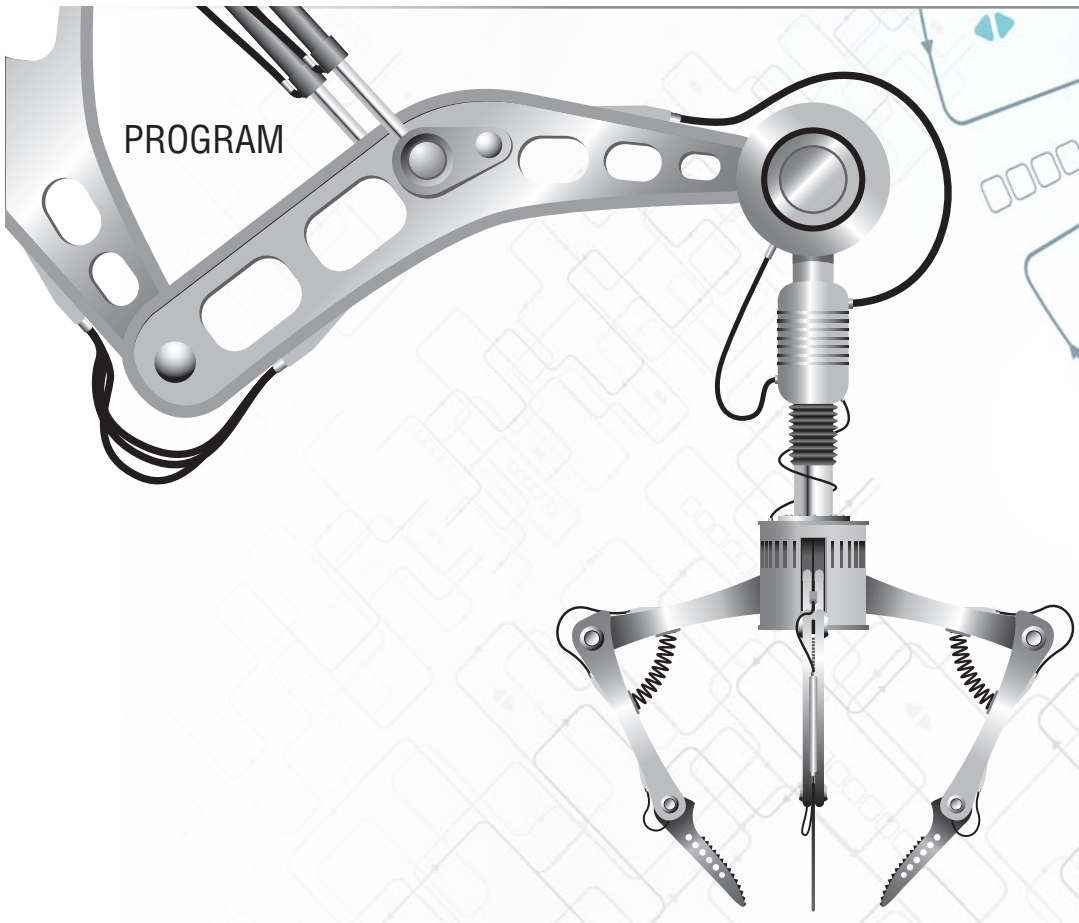
How does Piedmont Tech Compare

*Average college tuition for two years**



**Cost estimates are based on 2014-2015 tuiion and fees as reported to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in spring 2015.*

Start today at www.ptc.edu/transfer



Mechatronics

Cutting-Edge Skills for High-Demand Jobs in Manufacturing

When Henry Ford implemented assembly line techniques to automobile production in 1913, he revolutionized the skills needed in manufacturing. Factories became filled with low- or semi-skilled workers, who performed repetitive tasks for low pay.

Yesterday's factories have evolved into automated, advanced manufacturing environments, where workers with a high level of technical skill are needed to run and maintain complex machines, robots and computer systems.

These new technology-based jobs require specific training in mechanics, electrical circuitry and technology. To help train workers for these careers of the future, Piedmont Technical College combines these studies into a program called Mechatronics.

"Mechatronics is a new approach in the United States," said Kevin Moore, mechatronics technology coordinator. "It's a systems approach where you look at the whole system rather than the individual component."

Professionals in the mechatronics field work with hydraulics and pneumatics, robotics and automated controls, programmable controllers, process control and mechanical applications. These professionals design, implement, manufacture, service and repair a wide array of equipment.

"In manufacturing, time lost is money lost. If a part breaks down, production stops and the company loses money," Moore said. "And it can be really expensive to replace a piece of equipment when one piece is not working. So, companies look to technicians who can quickly repair the broken part.

"However, companies don't want to keep a technician on staff who can only repair robotics and one who can only repair electrical systems and one who can only repair mechanical systems and so on," he said. "So companies are looking for that one well-trained person who can do it all."

Growing Career Opportunities

Technicians trained in mechatronics have the skills and the know-how to repair any of the systems found in the modern industrial environment. And because they are knowledgeable in so many areas, the mechatronics technician is in high demand in a large variety of industries - aerospace, robotics, automotive production, manufacturing and even business. As manufacturing continues to become even more advanced, the demand for trained mechatronics technicians will continue to grow.

A degree in mechatronics qualifies graduates for a job as an electro-mechanical technician. According to reports from Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. (EMSI), the median salary for this profession in the region surrounding Piedmont Tech is $47,723. That salary breaks down to $3,976 per month, or $22.94 per hour. EMSI also sites that this career has grown by 7 percent over the last two years and is expected to grow by 16 percent over the next 10 years.

Student Profile

Jason White

Grad Finds New Focus in Mechatronics

Jason White tried to avoid the family business. But, he found out it was in his blood.

"My great-grandfather was an engineer, my grandfather was an engineer, my father was an engineer," he said. "I had great aptitude for engineering, but I thought pursuing a career in something I loved was important."

White had a passion for cooking. Upon graduation from Greenwood High School in 1993, he enrolled at Johnson & Wales University in Charleston and became an executive chef. The idea of being a chef seemed glamorous at the time, but White found out it involved a lot of long hours and took him away from his family. After 20 years, he found he had lost that passion and wanted to pursue a different career.

White spent the last several years of his culinary career looking for a new path. His search led him to a program at Piedmont Technical College, and a new career and skillset he could be passionate about.

"My love always came back to making things and building things," said White. "When I decided on a new focus, I found the mechatronics program. It involved things that excited me like robots and general electronics."

White woke up one morning and decided to go to the admissions office at Piedmont Tech to find out what it would take to return to college. When he left, he was enrolled in the mechatronics program.

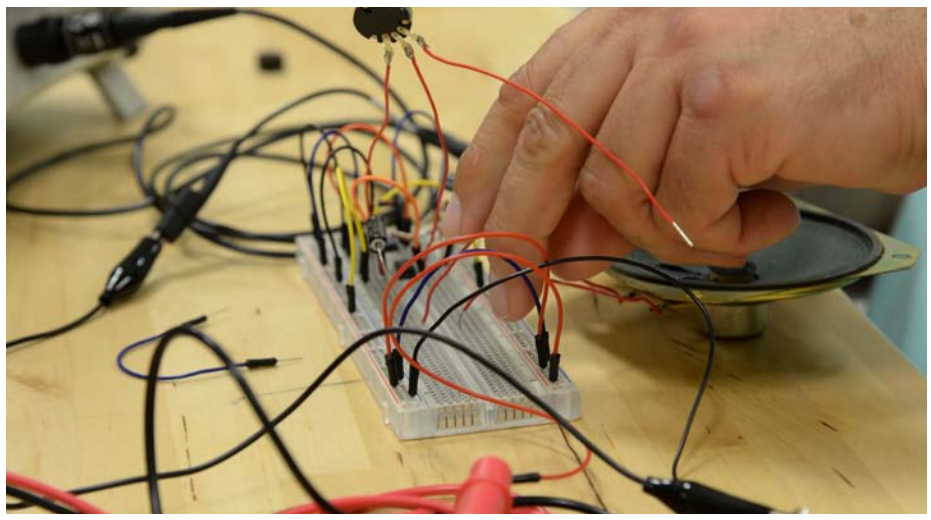
"I am totally happy with the choices I've made," White said. "Everything I've learned about the curriculum has made me more excited."

White earned associate degrees in both mechatronics technology and industrial electronics technology in 2014. But, he wasn't finished. He returned to Piedmont Tech, enrolling in the electronic engineering technology program with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree through the 2+2 program with South Carolina State University.

"There's a huge amount of overlap in the programs," he said. "Electronic engineering technology focuses more on the theory behind electronics whereas mechatronics students must have a mechanical background and an electrical background."

White said the two programs will blend well, especially with his goal to eventually teach.

"I'm hugely passionate about mechatronics. When I go home, I go to my own electronics lab and build robots and learn beyond the curriculum of the school," White said. "There is a passion there I never actually had for culinary arts." ■



Beyond this solid job outlook, the program at PTC is designed to prepare students for a career in today's job market.

"Piedmont Tech is one of the few colleges in South Carolina that offers an associate degree in mechatronics. In two short years, you can earn a degree that will open the door to this high-demand career," Moore said. "We offer classroom instruction and some of the best hands-on training you can find."

Mechatronics at PTC

Students who enroll in PTC's program work with the same equipment found in the manufacturing and industrial fields. The goal is to provide an ideal learning environment for mastering the fundamentals required for Mechatronics.

Students can choose to enroll in the college's associate degree or start with their certificate in mechatronics technology.

Classes are offered at the Newberry County Campus, the Laurens County Center for Advanced Manufacturing and the Lex Walters Campus in Greenwood.

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/mechatronics. ■

Mechatronics AT A GLANCE

PTC Credentials

- Mechatronics Technology (A.A.S.)
- Mechatronics Technology – Certificate

Program Locations*

- Greenwood County
- Newberry County
- Laurens County Center for Advanced Manufacturing

Job Outlook**

- Median Salary: $47,723
- Expected 16 percent job growth over 10 years

**Students can start working on this degree at any of PTC's seven county campuses.*

*** Salary provided by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), based on data collected within a 100 mile radius around Greenwood, South Carolina.*

Learn more about Mechatronics through our program video series. Visit www.ptc.edu/mechatronics.

PROGRAM

Welding: Relevant Training for a Rewarding Career

There is almost no limit to what welding can do, especially since developments in the technology continually improve in accuracy, quality and versatility. The demand for skilled welders is rising and the technology of welding is becoming more advanced. The influence of welding is so broad that many of the product designs and building techniques people take for granted would not be possible without these skills. Through welding, students have a unique opportunity to have an ever changing, creative career that is always in demand.

"If a person is creative, and they like to make things or see things happen right before their eyes, welding is an outstanding career to go into," said Tony Amos, welding instructor at Piedmont Technical College's Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Laurens County.

Students in the welding program at Piedmont Tech get training in gas welding and arc welding. "Specifically, students are trained in the areas of stick welding, MIG welding and TIG welding," said Amos. "This training translates well into what is going on in the industry today."

Amos also explained that there is currently a shortage of welders in the United States and specifically in the region around Piedmont Tech. In fact, reports from Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. (EMSI), site that this career has grown by 18 percent over the last two years and is expected to grow by 15 percent over the next 10 years. EMSI also reports that the median salary for welders in the region surrounding the college is $34,465, while highly experienced workers can earn as much as $45,827.

"Beyond their base salary, our graduates often make a good bit

more through overtime pay," said Jim Fleming, PTC welding program coordinator. "Some of our students are easily bringing in more than $50,000 per year shortly after graduation."

More importantly, Piedmont Tech is producing students that are well prepared to take advantage of this positive job outlook.

"A graduate from our program has the qualities and the qualifications to go out and pass a test and start work in almost any industry that has welders," said Amos.

Welding in Laurens County

Piedmont Technical College's welding program at the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) in Laurens County is launching a new approach to preparing students to enter the workforce.

Amos is piloting a program in conjunction with the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The NCCER curriculum provides students with additional resources and preparation techniques.

"We graduate outstanding welders, all of our welders are qualified," said Amos. "But the knowledge-base on metallurgy and processes does have room for improvement."

The current curriculum focuses heavily on lab time and hands-on training. The NCCER curriculum will add an additional component for students with online instruction and testing. Instructors receive those test results and can focus their in-class instruction on the areas where students struggled.

"When the students come into my classroom, I can hit the highlights of what was not absorbed through the interaction online," Amos said. "I don't have to reteach what they already know."

Industries in the area will be able to utilize the connection between Piedmont Tech and NCCER. Companies can access student records online to verify credentials and help them find the ideal employees to fit their needs. This idea of tailoring the education for industry is the foundation for NCCER.

"NCCER builds their curriculum by bringing in the experts in the industry to find out what the industry needs," said Amos. "Then they establish the curriculum to meet those needs."

Amos said students who choose to enroll in the welding program in Laurens will have a faster pace and a heavier load, but the payoff will be worth the effort.

"Students who complete this curriculum will be more marketable and in higher demand because of the credentials they can gain," he said. "The program we're moving to will more effectively meet the target for what the industry needs."

Welding at PTC

Hands-on shop work gives students in Piedmont Tech's welding program

Student Profile

Cassandra Jones

Graduate Shows Welding Not Just for Boys

Being raised with three brothers, Cassandra Jones was a self-proclaimed tomboy. She was interested in cars and mechanical things.

As an adult, the Newberry native came to the realization that she needed more education to make a better life for her family, and especially her four daughters. She looked to Piedmont Technical College to explore her options.

"I've always been fascinated by welding, so I looked into the program," Jones said. "A lot of people questioned why I wasn't going to go into what they called a 'woman's field,' but that wasn't me."

Jones began her journey to earn her Associate in Applied Science with a major in General Technology-Welding, a degree that requires her to take classes in the welding program and a second industrial technology program. Despite the doubts of many of her classmates, she has excelled in both programs.

"At first it was very difficult. They saw me as a girly girl and expected me to quit," she said. "But working with them and seeing them gain respect for me reminded me of my brothers. They became part of my family."

Her acceptance in the field extended beyond the walls of Piedmont Tech when Jones was offered an internship at General Electric Co. in Greenville. She happily took advantage of the opportunity and parlayed her experience into a full-time job with the company.

"We got to learn from very skilled and knowledgeable people that had been welding there for 30 years or so," said Jones. "It was an experience you couldn't get anywhere else."

Jones loves the work she is doing and she hopes that her accomplishments will set a good example for her daughters. Her oldest daughter has already expressed an interest in enrolling in the mechatronics program at the Newberry County Career Center and then moving onto the program at Piedmont Tech.

"I want them to be strong, independent women," she said. "I want them to know they don't have to be confined by what society thinks is a 'woman's field.' They can do anything."

For other women, Jones said they need to think outside the box and follow their dreams.

"Following my passion and enrolling at Piedmont Tech was the best decision I've ever made," she said. "It's an accomplishment that not only I can be proud of but those four girls can be proud of."

Jones graduated from Piedmont Tech in May. ■

> "A lot of people questioned why I wasn't going to go into what they called a 'woman's field,' but that wasn't me."

Welding AT A GLANCE

PTC Credentials

- General Technology – Welding (A.A.S.)
- Welding Diploma
- Basic Welding Certificate

Program Locations*

- Greenwood County
- Laurens County Center for Advanced Manufacturing

Job Outlook**

- Salary: $34,465
- Expected 15 percent job growth over 10 years

**Students can start working on this degree at any of PTC's eight locations.*

***Salary provided by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), based on data collected within a 100 mile radius around Greenwood, South Carolina.*

Learn more about Welding through our program video series. Visit www.ptc.edu/welding.

practical experience in welding processes, together with a good foundation in blueprint reading and sketching and the weld ability and properties of metals.

Students can choose to enroll in the college's associate degree in general technology in welding, pursue their welding diploma or start with their certificate in basic welding.

Classes are offered at the Lex Walters Campus in Greenwood County and the Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Laurens County.

For more information on the welding program, visit www.ptc.edu/welding. ■

Getting a Head Start:

Students Earn College Credit Through Dual Enrollment Courses

Whether high school students take classes at their school or on one of Piedmont Technical College's seven campuses, they have multiple options for earning college credit and receiving career training through PTC's dual enrollment program.

Many students in the region already take advantage of the program. For instance, in the fall 2014 semester alone, the program enrolled 700 high school students in 20 locations throughout the seven-county area that Piedmont Tech serves.

"We are proud to work with the school districts in our region who have seen the benefits of the dual enrollment program," said Amanda Richardson, PTC dual enrollment director.

Richardson said that dual enrollment is a great deal for families because the credit students earn is designed from the ground up to transfer. This means a big cost savings for families.

She encourages families to check out how their credits will transfer by visiting SCTRAC.org, the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center.

"Some of our students enroll at Piedmont Tech after they graduate, but many dual enrollment students take the credit they've earned and transfer to four-year colleges and universities," said Richardson.

Whether students are seeking career training or college credit toward a higher degree, PTC offers several pathways to help high school students achieve their academic goals.

A Two-year Degree and a High School Diploma

As part of dual enrollment offerings, Piedmont Technical College has partnered with three school districts to form Piedmont Middle College programs. Through the program, students at Ninety Six High School, Saluda High School and McCormick High School have the opportunity to complete their associate degree at the same time that they graduate from high school.

The Middle College is a set curriculum designed by Piedmont Tech and the school district tailored for the high school students and their specific needs. The students begin classes in their junior year and earn not only high school credit, but college credits toward their degree. If they follow the curriculum, they earn at least 48 credit hours toward an associate degree.

By taking additional courses over the summer, the Middle College students have the opportunity to earn a full associate degree while still in high school. The program essentially allows students to complete the first two years of a four-year degree while still in high school.

"By taking the classes over the summer to complete the degree, it will put me ahead of the game when I get to college," said Danielle Balentine, a graduate from Ninety Six High School. "I can go straight into my major instead of taking all of the introductory classes."

The instructors in the program encourage any student interested to explore the option of taking Middle College classes.

"For some of these students, this is their chance to get a degree that they otherwise couldn't afford to pursue," said Tory Miller, economics instructor at Piedmont Tech. "If they can walk out their senior year with an associate degree and their high school diploma, they've got 10 steps up on everyone else across the country that just has the high school diploma."

A Bridge to Career Opportunities

In addition to providing students with a jumpstart on their bachelor's degree, the dual enrollment program provides the necessary courses and relevant training students need for success in various in demand, high paying careers. Offerings include a range of industrial and health care career tracks.

Specifically, students can complete a health care or nursing Certificate which offer a broad curriculum and hands-on training in health-related fields. This training provides students with a great foundation for a seamless transfer into health science and nursing programs at Piedmont Tech.

Students can also receive training that can put them directly to work right after high school. For instance, PTC offers a welding certificate in Laurens that can be completed in just one year. With this training students can go right to work in the field of welding or transfer their credits into an associate degree or diploma program at the college.

For more information on all of Piedmont Tech's dual enrollment offerings, visit www.ptc.edu/dual or call 864-941-8352. ■

Where Do You Want to Go?

For many people, deciding on a career can feel like taking a journey without either a map or a destination. Eventually, with some advice and direction, a little exploration and maybe a dead end or two, you begin to get a sense of where you'd like to go and how to get there. Whether you're just starting out or picking up a new career in mid-life, Piedmont Tech offers courses and services to help you find your path and get to your goal.

Good advice and good resources are the best road maps. PTC's Counseling, Career Planning and Employment services can help you explore your options and get started on a plan of action. Academic advisors too, can help you choose the right classes for your goal.

PTC's 80+ certificate, diploma and degree programs are some of the best vehicles around for taking you to your career destinations. In a year or less a certificate can get you into a job, in two years an associate degree can move you a little farther along your career path, and transferring to a four-year college will take you even farther.

Map out your options by taking a look at the PTC A-Z listing below. And when you're ready to start planning your career, visit www.ptc.edu to find out how to enroll in classes. Call the Admissions Office at (855) 446-3864 or answers to your questions. ■

UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 19 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/transfer

AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge based economy.

South Carolina Median Salaries

Farmer - $29,103
Agricultural Technician - $34,939
Nursery Operator - $29,103

Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

A.A.S., Major in Diversified Agriculture
Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology
Horticulture Landscape Management Certificate
Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson
Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson

BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensible part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

South Carolina Median Salaries*

Tax Preparer - $36,767
Medical Transcriptionist - $32,400
Network Administrator - $67,279

Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology
Microcomputer Software Specialist Certificate
Office Technician Certificate

Business

Probably no other occupational area encompasses a more diverse range of activities than the business field.

A.A.S., Major in Business
Accounting Certificate
Entrepreneurship Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College

BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Commercial Art
If you have an artistic streak and you enjoy solving problems by thinking creatively and interacting with computers, you should consider a major in Commercial Art.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Commercial Art
- Concentrations in advertising design, digital rendering and photography.

Advertising Design Certificate

Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate

Photography Certificate

Computer Technology
Students study computer maintenance, local and wide area networks and popular programming languages. Graduates are truly prepared to take their place in the Information Age.

A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology

PC Technician Certificate

Professional Pottery
Located in historic Edgefield County, the Professional Clay program is designed to offer a comprehensive education in the craft of pottery, and in the discipline of making a living doing what you love.

Advanced Professional Clay Certificate

Professional Clay Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

If you're fascinated by technology and enjoy a hands-on approach to problem solving, Engineering Technology may be the right career path for you.

South Carolina Median Salaries

Electrical and Electronics Drafter - $57,391
Electronic Engineering Technician - $55,892
Mechanical Engineering Technician- $51,747

Electronic Engineering Technology
The graduate is skilled in the operation, troubleshooting, calibration and repair of electronic instruments and systems found in process control, communications, computers, manufacturing, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors.

A.A.S., Major in Electronic Engineering Technology

Engineering Graphics Technology
All phases of manufacturing or construction require the conversion of new ideas and design concepts into the basic line language of graphics.

A.A.S., Major in Engineering Graphics Technology

General Engineering Technology
Students will learn how computers and robotics are used in industry to operate automated manufacturing systems. They will also learn to program computers, robots, computerized numerical control (CNC) machines, programmable logic controllers and automated equipment.

A.A.S., Major in General Engineering Technology

Mechanical Engineering Technology
The Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum equips the graduate for: performing a key role in the mechanical design process; installing, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment; programming CNC machine tools, computers, programmable controllers and robots; and performing general maintenance functions.

A.A.S., Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Engineering Bachelor's Degree Options
Agreements have been developed toprovide options for transfer into three Bachelor's Degree programs: the USC Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering programs; SCSU's Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology (BSEET) degree or the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology (BSMET) degree programs; and USC Upstate's Engineering Technology Management B.S. program.

PIEDMONT Technical College

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Students enrolled in any of the Industrial Technology curricula will gain practical experience and technical knowledge. Well-equipped labs, broad-based programs and hands-on opportunities make the difference in their futures.

South Carolina Median Salaries

Automotive Technician - $32,551
Carpenter - $32,075
HVAC Technician - $36,854
Electronics Technician - $47,723
CNC Machine Tool Operator - $37,433
Mechatronics Technician - $47,723
Welder - $34,465

Automotive Technology
Students are trained to perform quality maintenance, diagnosis and repair of complex modern vehicles.

A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology

Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Building Construction Technology
Students gain practical training in estimating building costs, carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring, blueprint reading, brick masonry, construction, building codes and safety.

A.A.S., Major in Building Construction Technology

Carpentry Certificate

Gunsmithing
A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Gunsmithing

Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate

Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology
Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology

Heating Fundamentals Certificate

Refrigeration Applications Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology
Instruction covers DC and AC voltages; basic hydraulics; machine shop practice; motor control; and the generation, distribution and utilization of electrical power.

A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology

Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

Machine Tool Technology
Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.

A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology

D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool

Computerized Numerical Control Certificate

Machine Tool Operator Certificate

Precision Metrology Certificate

Mechatronics Technology
Combining electronic, mechanical, robotics and information system technologies, this program provides the graduate with the skill set needed for today's automated manufacturing facilities.

A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology

Mechatronics Technology I Certificate

Welding
Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Welding

D.A.S., Major in Welding

Basic Welding Certificate

Piedmont Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number (404) 679-4500) to award the associate degree. For a full list of accreditations, visit www.ptc.edu/about/accreditation

Piedmont Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status in its admissions policies, programs, activities or employment practices.

For information on tuition and fees, program length, graduation rates, placement rates, and median loan debt, visit www.ptc.edu.

HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING

With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

South Carolina Median Salaries

Cardiovascular Technologist - $50,386
Funeral Director - $39,241
Human Services Assistant - $27,204
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - $39,434
Massage Therapist - $30,365
Pharmacy Technician - $28,282
Radiologic Technologist - $51,033
Respiratory Therapist - $51,906
Registered Nurse (RN) - $59,387
Veterinary Technologist - $27,465

Cardiovascular Technology
The Cardiovascular Technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.
A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology

Emergency Medical Technician
The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a vital link in the health care chain. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are employed in areas such as emergency ambulances, private non-emergent transport services, clinics, and other allied health care settings.
Emergency Medical Technician Certificate

Funeral Service
This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.
A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service
Funeral Service Education Certificate

Health Science Transfer Program
By working closely with an advisor, students can select options in Medical Laboratory Technology, Physical Therapy Assistant or Dental Hygiene. Successful completion of the core requirements and the selected advising option will qualify students to be considered for a one-plus-one program leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree at Greenville Technical College.

Human Services
The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, mental retardation and mental health settings; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.
A.A.S., Major in Human Services

Massage Therapy
Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Massage Therapy
Massage Therapy Certificate

Medical Assisting
The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Medical Assisting
D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting

Nursing
The Nursing program will assist students in developing the intellectual, technical and professional competencies necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses.
A.A.S., Major in Nursing
D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing
LPN to ADN Nursing Transition Option
Associate in Arts with Nursing Focus/ADN to BSN

Occupational Therapy Assistant
As only one of three two-year programs of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's Occupational Therapy program is a great option for students seeking this in demand training in the Upstate and Midlands.
A.A.S., Major in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Patient Care Technician
Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as Patient Care Technicians who are a part of the health care team.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Patient Care Technician
Patient Care Technician Certificate

Pharmacy Technology
Graduates of the pharmacy technology diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Pharmacy Technology
D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology

HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING

Phlebotomy Technician
This certificate program provides students with the basic skills necessary for the collection of laboratory blood specimens.
Phlebotomy Technician Certificate

Radiologic Technology
The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography field.
A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology

Respiratory Care
The respiratory care practitioner is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies.
A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care

Surgical Technology
Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RN's and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Surgical Technology
D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

Veterinary Technology
The veterinary technician works under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The specialized training received will allow the graduate to seek employment in such areas as clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, food inspection and government agencies.
A.A.S., Major in Veterinary Technology

PUBLIC SERVICE

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice, Human Services or Early Care and Education.

South Carolina Median Salaries

Police Officer - $38,865
Preschool or Daycare Director - $43,879
Preschool Teacher - $24,150

Criminal Justice
This program is designed to prepare professionally-educated and competent criminal justice practitioners for careers within the criminal justice system.
A.A.S., Major in Criminal Justice

Early Care and Education
The Early Care and Education program offers a combination of classroom instruction and supervised, hands-on experience that prepares students for direct entry into the field of Early Care and Education.
A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education
A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education, Infant/Toddler Care Concentration

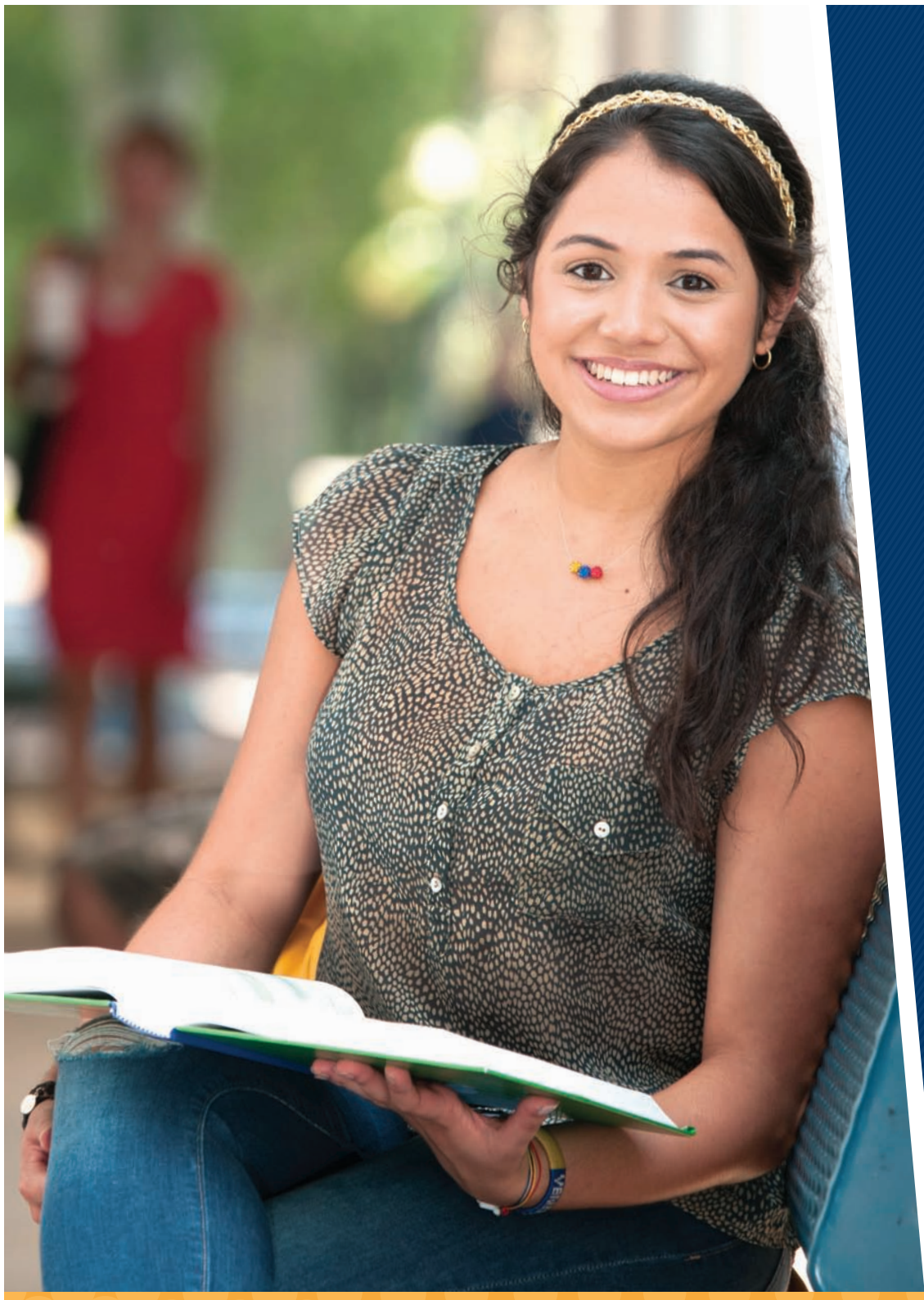
Early Childhood Development Certificate
Infant/Toddler Certificate

GENERAL TECHNOLOGY

The General Technology degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities.

General Technology
The major in General Technology is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs into broader occupational degrees. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities. Total credit hours for this degree must equal 60 or more. Students in the following program areas, with general education courses, may earn an associate in applied science with a general major in general technology: Welding, Gunsmithing, Commercial Art, and Health Science.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science
D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science



START SMART START HERE

In two years or less, Piedmont Technical College can train you for a career in one of **80 plus fields that pay** — for a lot less than you'd spend at other colleges. Take classes at a campus close to home, or online from anywhere there's an Internet connection.

Whether you plan to go straight into the workforce, or work toward a bachelor's degree at a four-year college, PTC is the perfect place to **start smart**.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY CAMPUS
143 Hwy 72 W
Abbeville, South Carolina
(864) 446-8324

CENTER FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
109 Innovation Drive
Laurens, South Carolina
(864) 682-3702

EDGEFIELD COUNTY CAMPUS
506 Main Street
Edgefield, South Carolina
(803) 637-5388

LEX WALTERS CAMPUS-GREENWOOD
620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, South Carolina
(864) 941-8324

LAURENS COUNTY CAMPUS
663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, South Carolina
(864) 938-1505

MCCORMICK COUNTY CAMPUS
1008 Kelly Street
McCormick, South Carolina
(864) 852-3191

NEWBERRY COUNTY CAMPUS
1922 Wilson Road
Newberry, South Carolina
(803) 276-9000

SALUDA COUNTY CAMPUS
701 Batesburg Hwy.
Saluda, South Carolina
(864) 445-3144

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Your goals. Our mission.

For more information,
visit **www.ptc.edu**
or call **(855) 446-3864.**