

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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CareerFocus™



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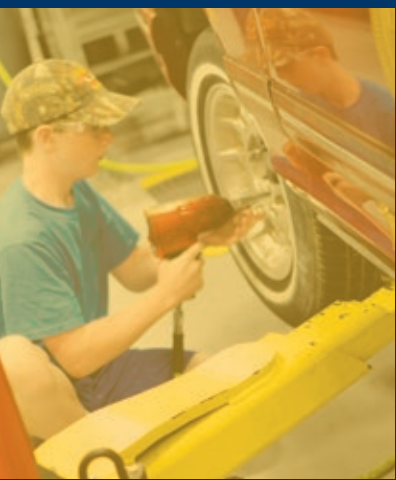
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A COLLEGE DEGREE AND
A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

IT ALL
ADDS UP

MATTERS OF
THE HEART

WHERE DO YOU
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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 System, is a public comprehensive two-year postsecondary 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 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; college preparatory programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed credit and non-credit programs to provide training for business and industry and to meet the needs of the community. To optimize access to higher education in the rural seven-county service area, Piedmont Technical College offers distance learning courses through multiple modes of delivery.

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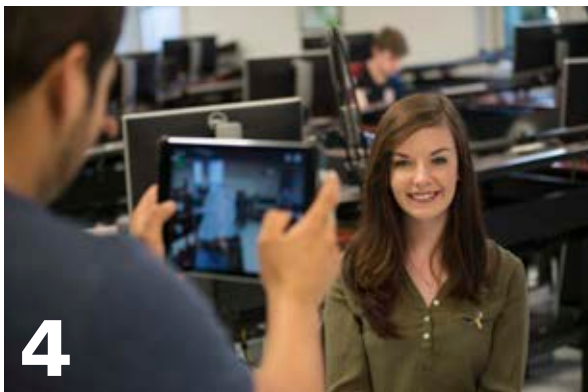
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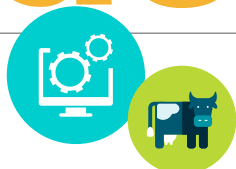
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Facts and Finds

Community college pays off



Graduates who earn certificates at community colleges earn an average of nearly \$9,000 more than those who go through for-profit training programs, according to new data from the US Department of Education.

“Some institutions are clearly paying off for graduates, offering a high-value degree relative to other institutions,” the report notes. “In particular, programs offered by community colleges outperform comparable for-profit programs.”

Students who attend community colleges not only benefit from higher post-graduate earnings, but they also incur a fraction of the debt borne by their for-profit counterparts.

Another study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that graduates who earned an occupational credential — such as certificates in agriculture, business, computer science, and other common programs at community colleges — had a higher rate of employment in their fields of study than graduates who received degrees in academic areas like English, liberal arts, mathematics, philosophy, or history.

Sources: US Department of Education, (<http://ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-releases-new-graduate-earnings-data-career-college-programs>); National Center for Education Statistics (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2016107>)

Sign of the times: American Sign Language gains steam

American Sign Language (ASL) is the main form of communication for the deaf and many hearing impaired people in North America. The language is a complex system of signs, facial expressions, and postures that has evolved over 200 years and spread to multiple countries around the world. The National Association of the Deaf considers ASL “the backbone of the American deaf culture.”



But it has not always been recognized as a language. In fact, the NAD was partly organized in order to promote ASL as a legitimate language — one that has proven critical to educating deaf children and adults, and helping them thrive in their communities.

ASL has distinct language features from English, with its own distinct rules for grammar and pronunciation. To ask a question in English, a speaker’s voice might rise in pitch at the end of a sentence; ASL users ask a question by raising their eyebrows. While ASL has regional “dialects” in different countries where it is used, it is considered a valuable “bridge” language internationally.

Today, sign language classes are offered at growing numbers of community colleges or through public libraries across the country. Interested in broadening your communication abilities? More information on learning ASL is available at NAD.org.

Source: NAD (<https://nad.org/issues/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language>)

Pick your battles

Almost everyone has had a coworker — or worse, a manager — they dislike. Clashing personalities can make a workplace more stressful, unproductive, and chaotic, and ultimately you still have to engage with the people you might want to avoid.

Jay Heinrichs, author of the book *Thank You For Arguing*, says the best way to talk to someone you despise is to make the interaction productive by keeping it focused on a goal. As the title suggests, Heinrichs advises mastering persuasive language and making arguments constructive.

Stepping back from the personal is also a step back from the stress. When Avery Augustine of career site The Muse felt a knee-jerk impulse to disagree with a coworker she personally disliked, she asked herself, “Was the idea one I truly opposed? Or was I arguing for the sake of proving her wrong?” She adds: “Once I started looking at the driving force behind my battles, I found that most of the time, I was pushing against her as a person — not necessarily her ideas.”

Moreover, says Augustine, without a constructive counterproposal, opposition is simply counterproductive, and your opposition to the “difficult” coworker makes you into the difficult one.

Sources: *Thank You For Arguing*, (<http://jayheinrichs.com/>); *The Muse*, (<https://themuse.com/advice/pick-your-battles-3-questions-to-ask-before-disagreeing-at-work>)



Want to stay sharp? Keep busy

Staying busy and learning new things can keep us sharper as we age, according to recent research. A study of older adults found those with busy schedules tended to perform better on memory, logic, and information processing tests.

Better brain health is correlated to many things, such as higher education and income levels. But according to Sara Festini of the Center for Vital Longevity at the University of Texas at Dallas, “busyness” in itself offers some mental rewards. “We think it is likely that being busy is good for your cognition,” she says.

Festini conducted a study in which 330 men and women between the ages of 50 and 89 rated their “busyness” in response to questions like, “How often do you have too many things to do each day to actually get them all done?” The participants also took tests to measure their memory, reasoning, and other cognitive abilities. Overall, the busier people said they were, the better they did on the tests.

Although many people consider a packed schedule to be a source of stress, Festini suggests that the study “provides further motivation to seek out additional activities and to keep learning new skills throughout adulthood.” ■

Source: <http://health.usnews.com/health-care/articles/2016-05-17/keep-busy-stay-sharp>

Five Qualities of A Successful Student

If you're considering going to college, a few anxious questions have probably entered your mind. Will I have time? Am I smart enough? How can I keep up?

Don't worry. There are qualities you can hone with practice that will help you succeed: motivation, focus, critical thinking, good communication skills, and authenticity.

Such qualities are highly sought after by employers after college, too. In fact, these characteristics are part of the "soft skills" that are increasingly valued across all industries, as employers recognize the need for workers who not only know how to perform their jobs but also interact well with one another, handle problems, and rise into leadership roles.

Successful students are:

1 Motivated:

The saying "attitude is everything" may be a little exaggerated, but not by a lot. Students who come to class eager to learn are far more likely to succeed.

Not every subject is going to inspire passion, of course. On the way to graduating, students must take general education classes in math, English, and other subjects that may not be their strong suit. But viewing individual classes as steps toward you achieving your broader goal — graduating and launching your career — will keep you motivated to stick with it.

2 Focused:

Now more than ever, we are bombarded with distractions. Mental noise is only a cellphone tap away, and even if you're in work mode, the culture of "multitasking" exerts a pressure to juggle multiple processes at once. Studies have shown that we are worse at this juggling act than we think.

Focusing means setting priorities, and exercising your willpower about doing the work. Self-discipline can be a new challenge for a first-time college student — but it's the beginning of the rest of your life. Nobody is going to drag you out of bed after you hit the snooze button.

To cultivate focus, establish a routine. Break work down into smaller tasks. A regular schedule can keep you from feeling overwhelmed or forgetting things. Save the distractions that lure you away as a reward for getting important tasks done.

3 Critical thinkers:

Good students don't just absorb material, they digest it. Thinking critically means listening well in class, turning material over in your mind, and rewording it in ways that click for you.

Be curious! Critical thinking means posing questions, which is the key to innovation and scientific discovery.

Remember, education isn't just about learning. It's also about learning how to learn.

4 Communicative:

"There are no stupid questions." OK, maybe that's a white lie in some cases. But college-level learning is not easy, and even the best students can get confused.

Good communicators are a sort of classroom barometer. They let their instructors know what concepts they grasp, and where they need clarity. Chances are, if you need further explanation, you're not alone.

Make a conscious effort to understand what others say. Students who are able to articulate how they understand subject matter, both verbally and in writing, are more likely to succeed in college and beyond.

5 Authenticity:

This quality is harder to define, but easy to recognize in the people who exude it. A good student has confidence in their abilities, but understands they don't already have all the answers. They are honest, both with themselves and others. Students who know their own strengths and weaknesses are more flexible and better at responding to challenges inside the classroom and out. A good sense of humor can help you roll with the punches, too. Be yourself. ■

The New Face of Drafting:

3D printers, scanners and design software are the tools of today's engineering design professionals



The drafting table still shapes the public perception of what engineering design professionals do in manufacturing, architecture and other job sectors. These workers are still called drafters. But within their field, vast changes in technology have transformed the way we design and produce things.

These changes have led to a process that is almost fully computerized, requiring drafters to have a high level of training across various software and hardware platforms. At Piedmont Technical College, that training starts in the Engineering Design Technology program.

The technology of design

"More than 95 percent of our program is done on computers," said Christina Knight, instructor for engineering design technology at Piedmont Tech. "The fact that this field is more immersed in technology allows us to know more about the product before it leaves the design phase."

In fact, engineering design professionals can use design software to add variables to a project that will allow others in their business to know things like product weight and materials. The software also allows for product quality testing so that many issues can be identified before the production phase begins.

"The software being used is one thing, but the way we choose the software, and the other technology we train our students to use, is just as important," Knight said.

The software platforms being used in the program are Inventor and SOLIDWORKS. Knight explained that these are the platforms students are being trained on because this is the software being used by industry in the region.

"Years ago, we were using AutoCAD, Auto-Trol, and MicroStation," said Knight. "We noticed the shift in the demand for one software platform over another and we made the change in our curriculum."



Knight and her colleagues also see the need for their students to know how to machine or manufacture an item, in addition to designing it.

"Through a new class, students in the program can now take a project from start to finish in order to understand facets beyond just drafting and design," said Knight. "There are certain ways you have to design something in order to machine it properly. When students draw a part a lot of the time they are just adding material. In this class, they start with a virtual block, or stock size in the design process and remove material. It's kind of like woodworking."

Beyond the new course and the software, students work closely with 3D printing and scanning technology. They work with a laser engraver and learn about the metal casting process. They also work with milling machines, lathes and much more.

The need for drafters

Twice a year, Knight and her colleagues meet with a program advisory board that is made up of employees from manufacturing companies in the region. While these meetings help Knight and her colleagues make important changes to their

Cory Nickles

Graduate Finds Enjoyment in Engineering Technology

Cory Nickles is always up for a challenge. So, the engineering technology programs at Piedmont Technical College were perfect for him.

Nickles graduated from Greenwood High School in 1996 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After his tour was over, he left the Corps because he didn't want to continually relocate his children.

"I didn't want to be gone their entire childhood," he said.

Then September 11 happened and Nickles joined the National Guard.



While in the military, a friend introduced Nickles to the combat engineer unit. At that point, he was hooked. He eventually moved on to become a combat engineer instructor.

Nickles continued to look forward to what he would do when he re-entered civilian life. He began to explore the options to become an engineer.

"In this day and time, without a college degree, you're not going to be able to make enough money to support yourself," he said.

Nickles looked at several major colleges, but felt he was just another face in the crowd. He wanted a place that would connect with him as not just a number, but as a person.

"The faculty here at Piedmont Technical College made you feel at home," he said.

In 2013, Nickles completed his associate degree in engineering design technology (EDT) and in 2014 he earned his associate degree in mechanical engineering technology (MET). He is on track to earn his bachelor's degree from South Carolina State University in August of 2017 and plans to pursue a master's degree. He is currently employed by Sealed Air in Simpsonville as a mechanical engineer.

"Everything I learned in the engineering design technology program I have put to use every day," said Nickles. "The two degrees, the EDT and MET, go very well together and make you very marketable out in the job world." ■



program in order to meet the training needs of local industry, the connections they make help them stay aware of employment opportunities for their students.

"Our goal is for our students to come out of the program job ready," said Knight. "And our close relationships with industry allow us to connect graduates with jobs quickly."

Graduates of the engineering design technology program also have a lot to do with the strong relationship the college has with local industry.

"Most of my employees graduated from Piedmont Tech," said Russell Boyce, maintenance of line and front end development manager at Eaton's Medium Voltage Switchgear Assemblies plant.

"I like that when they get the job, they are ready to start working."

"The learning curve is steeper for a person who has gone to a school that focuses on theory versus getting the hands-on experience that's offered through a program like the one at Piedmont Technical College," Boyce added.

Based on internal reporting at the college, 93 percent of 2014-15 graduates from the engineering design program found work or continued their education. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average pay for mechanical drafters in South Carolina is \$62,920, while more experienced workers can make over \$100,000. ■



Engineering Design Technology Outlook

Average pay in SC is **\$62,920**

Some earn more than **\$100,000** per year

93% placement rate



It All Adds Up:

A career in business can take you anywhere you want to go

When thinking of a career in business, it's easy to picture a man or woman in a suit, carrying a briefcase on their way to a board meeting. And while that image is accurate, the career possibilities with a business degree or certificate are a lot broader than this point of view.

"We have plenty of graduates with office jobs like accounting and management," said Suzy Murray, interim department head of the business administration program at Piedmont Technical College. "But we have just as many students who work in areas like massage therapy, construction and landscaping."

Murray describes the world of business as an open book—one in which an individual can find themselves in a diverse range of careers from health care to manufacturing. "Business really does take you anywhere you want to go," she said.

"Look around in your day-to-day interactions," Murray added. "Look when you take your children to school or go out to eat. Look when you go shopping or visit your doctor's office. There's someone there running the business side of things."

Education beyond limits

A degree in business administration at Piedmont Tech doesn't always follow the traditional classroom model. In fact, the program provides flexible options that allow students to complete coursework on their schedule.

"You can complete our program completely online or in person," said Murray. "I have students in the military who are deployed in Afghanistan and students who are working all kinds of shifts. The online option really makes our program more accessible."

Charles Clinemyer, a student pursuing the associate degree with a concentration in management, is taking classes while juggling a full-time job and family obligations. "This option made it possible for me," he said. "I couldn't have done it without the online classes."

Beyond the online classes, many business students also benefit from hybrid courses where they can attend classes, but turn in all assignments and take tests online.

For instance, Abbeville native Adam Overholt is pursuing an entrepreneur certificate while working



GRADUATE PROFILE

Nakisha Anderson

Graduate Finds Joy in Completing a Degree at PTC

Nakisha Anderson graduated from McCormick High School in 1993 with the intentions of going to college. While she couldn't afford to attend a four-year university, she enrolled at Piedmont Technical College but ended up leaving before finishing her degree.

She found a job at Self Regional Healthcare where she spent the next 20 years working her way up to department assistant for security, environmental services and hospitality services.

In 2010, her manager gave her the push to go back to school. She had the opportunity to go anywhere, but she chose to return to Piedmont Tech.

"I wanted to go back to Piedmont Technical College because I wanted to finish what I started," she said. "I was determined this time to finish and finish strong."

In 2014, Anderson completed her associate degree in administrative office technology with a medical concentration. On the day of graduation, she decided to re-enroll to pursue a degree in general business, knowing that it would be one more tool for her position at Self Regional. She completed her second degree in December 2016.

"I was so happy when I graduated," said Anderson. "I feel like I have set myself up to be more successful on my job in the future."

Anderson is now enrolled at Anderson University, pursuing her bachelor's degree in business. She is on track to complete her degree in 2019.

"I can honestly say that Piedmont Tech has helped me grow in so many ways," she said. "If I had to do it all over again, I would still attend." ■



part-time in the family business. "All of my classes are hybrid classes, which is really nice," he said. "If my dad needs to have me on the job and I miss class, I can do the work online and will not fall behind."

Whether online, hybrid or in person, students in business administration can choose the associate degree option which allows them to focus on either accounting, business management or office management. For those who want to build their skillset fast, the college offers an accounting certificate and an entrepreneur certificate.

Many business administration students at Piedmont Tech also complete their associate degree and transfer credits to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Why Business Administration at PTC?

Students choose to study business for a lot of reasons. And they enter the program at Piedmont Tech at all stages of life.

"We have older students who are looking for a new career or promotion," said Murray. "We have students straight out of high school, students with no experience and students who already have work experience."

Clinemyer, who currently works for Greenwood CPW, fits into that first category. "I've worked at CPW for almost 20 years," he said.

"I thought it might open up new opportunities for me at CPW. I wasn't sure if I was ready, but I thought I'd give it a shot."

After being out for a while, Clinemyer wasn't sure how he would adjust to being back in school. "It was demanding and there were some late nights," he said. "But what Piedmont Tech has allowed me to achieve has really helped me at every turn."

Students like Clinemyer and Overholt are successful for a lot of reasons according to Murray. But she explains that the experience faculty members bring to the classroom is key to providing students with the necessary knowledge to succeed in business. "Our faculty members are individuals who have worked extensively in the areas they are teaching," she said.

"Instead of giving them a book definition, I use my personal experiences to illustrate concepts," Murray added. "That helps make a concept real to them. It helps them apply real-world knowledge when they enter the workforce." ■

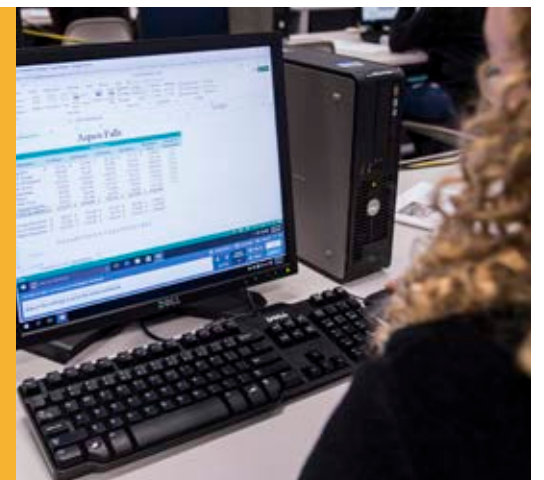


Business Administration Outlook

Average pay in SC for retail managers is **\$39,250**

Average pay in SC for bookkeepers and accountants is **\$34,320**

For a talented **Entrepreneur**, the opportunities are limitless.



A College Degree and a High School Diploma:

Dual enrollment classes lead to career for local student

Caleb Boatwright looks like your typical teenager. He's a soft-spoken guy who has the typical friends that he hangs out with each day. He will graduate in the spring from Greenwood High School. He doesn't seem to be extraordinary.

Until you realize he will also be a 2017 graduate of Piedmont Technical College.

The road to a career

Boatwright was on track to complete his high school education in his junior year of high school. But he looked to the future and decided to stay and get a jump start on his college education by enrolling in dual enrollment classes at Piedmont Tech.

"I wanted to come out to Piedmont Tech and get my hands in a field while taking high school classes," Boatwright said.

Boatwright likes working with his hands and took some automotive classes at the G. Frank Russell Career Center. His cousin had taken machine tool classes as a student at the Career Center, and those classes interested Boatwright more than the automotive. Since the machine tool program was no longer offered at the Career Center, he looked to Piedmont Tech.

"My friends thought I was crazy, that I should focus on my high school," he said. "I was focused on my high school, but I was also getting high school and college credit."

Boatwright will complete his diploma in machine tool in May. To accomplish that, he had to take a few classes last summer. But, he didn't see it as a sacrifice.

"I knew it was either have a free summer then, or take all my classes and be able to pursue a career the next summer," Boatwright said. "I knew I could get my diploma in May 2017 if I took those classes."

And he's not finished. He will continue in the summer to pursue his associate degree. He plans to major in either mechatronics or mechanical engineering technology.

More than college credit

Even before he completes his diploma, the hard work has already paid off for Boatwright. Recently, he was hired by Precision Plus. The company was very impressed with his hard work.

"I helped him clean up his resume and then submitted his application online," said Don Lytch, machine tool technology instructor. "About 10



A Bridge to a Career

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

Specifically, students can complete a health care or nursing certificate which offer a broad curriculum and hands-on training in health-related fields. They can pursue a welding certificate in Laurens that can be completed in just one year. Student can also complete all or portions of the college's mechatronics and machine tool programs, or develop their own path in collaboration with their guidance counselor and PTC's Dual Enrollment staff.

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

minutes after we submitted his application, they called him in for an interview."

"I like working with my hands, and I love the challenges of using your mind to solve problems," said Boatwright. "With machine tool, you don't have to follow strict rules to get results. You give a blueprint to five different machinists and they'll do it five different ways." ■



Matters of the Heart:

Cardiovascular Technology jobs are on the rise

There are many rewarding careers in health care, but few are as in-demand as those positions related to heart health. The need for professionals in heart-related fields is due to the high rate of heart disease in the nation.

In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) one in every six health care dollars in the nation is spent on treating heart disease. The CDC also reports that heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States and a major cause of disability.

Given the high need for treatment of individuals affected by this issue, there has continued to be a boom in heart-related positions in the health care field. Cardiovascular technologists make up many of those positions.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), job availability in this field is expected to grow by 22 percent—much faster than the national average—through 2024. BLS also cites that the average salary for cardiovascular technologists in South Carolina is \$47,810.

Faculty in the program are seeing some students receive that average level of pay right after graduation.

“One of my students last year was a minimum wage worker the whole time she was in our program,” said Laure Boone, non-invasive cardiovascular technology instructor. “She graduated and immediately got a job at the hospital where she did her clinical training and started out making over \$24 an hour.”



Cardiovascular Technologist Outlook

Employment is projected to grow by **22%** through 2024

Average pay in SC is **\$47,810**

A career in Cardiovascular Technology

As the only two-year program of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's cardiovascular technology program offers a comprehensive study of both invasive and non-invasive cardiovascular technology.

“Our program accepts 20 students every January,” said Boone. “Those students are trained in non-invasive and invasive techniques during their first semester. We give them a lot of exposure in these two areas so that they can make the right choice between the two by the end.”

Invasive cardiology utilizes highly sophisticated equipment to perform procedures on patients for diagnostic and interventional treatment of cardiovascular diseases through cardiac catheterization. Non-invasive cardiology uses ultrasound to perform diagnostics examinations on patients.

The program provides hands-on experience in these two areas through labs and work in real health care settings. Students learn from well-trained instructors in the classroom and work side by side with physicians and cardiologists during their training to perform actual procedures. ■

GRADUATE PROFILE

Nicholas Blackwell

Grad Discovers Rewarding Career in Heart-Health

When Nicholas Blackwell decided to attend Piedmont Technical College to receive training that would prepare him for a career, he was not completely sure what direction to take.

After receiving suggestions from family and help from an academic advisor at the college, he chose cardiovascular technology.

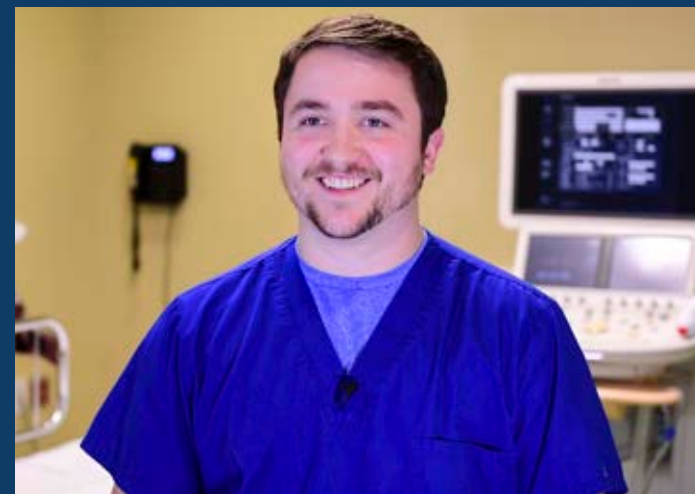
“Once I got into the CVT program, I became fascinated with the function of the heart.”

Not only did his interest in the program grow as he continued his studies, Blackwell also realized just how important his learning environment was in helping him obtain the skills he needed.

“I had teachers who truly cared about the success of their students and that encouraged me to work hard toward my goals,” said Blackwell.

Blackwell also had an opportunity to apply the skills he was learning in lab settings and a real-world environment before entering the workforce. “I was able to go to different doctors' offices and hospitals and get experience working with real patients,” he said.

Within a month of graduation from the cardiovascular technology program, Blackwell



had a job at Self Regional Healthcare. Now he has a message for those who are trying to make the decision to go back to college. “If someone was considering continuing their education, I would encourage them to do so,” he said. “By doing that you will open up more possibilities for your future.”

“Going back to college has given me a career I love, and a higher standard of living,” Blackwell added. ■

Massage Therapy: Putting touch back into health care

An interest in health and wellness, a solid understanding of how the human body works and a desire to help people are the perfect combination for a successful career in massage therapy.

And right now, massage therapy is one of the fastest growing career fields in the nation.

Much more than a back rub

“Massage therapists provide maintenance in a world that is structured for stress,” said Michelle Liggett, massage therapy program director and instructor. “We provide a release, both mentally and physically.”

In the past, massage therapy has served as a stepping stone into other medical fields for some students. Liggett said that today, more students are going into massage as a primary occupation.

Recognition of massage therapy as an ancillary treatment and preventive measure by the broader medical community is growing. Medical practitioners from dentists and doctors to chiropractors and surgeons are now employing massage therapists or referring their patients to therapists for everything from temporomandibular joint disorder to carpal tunnel syndrome.

Liggett said, “Massage therapy is more than just a Swedish massage these days. It requires you to know how movement occurs so rehabilitation can take place. This means therapists are also pain managers and must understand muscles, their origin, insertion, and action.”

PTC students learn more than just a therapeutic stroke. They must learn basic pharmacology, anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, pathology, and medical terminology so that they can critically determine what the best course of treatment is for each client.

Completion of a certificate in massage therapy at PTC prepares students to sit for testing through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. ■



Massage Therapy Outlook

Employment is projected to grow by **22%** through 2024

Average pay in SC is **\$36,900**

Some earn more than **\$70,000** per year



GRADUATE PROFILE

Melissa Raugh

Grad brings personal touch to restorative care

Melissa Raugh knows that just because you put your dreams on hold doesn't mean you can't achieve them.

Raugh always knew she wanted to go into massage therapy. After completing high school, she made the decision to start a family. Now that her children are grown, she has made the decision to pursue her dreams.

The decision to revisit her desire to be a massage therapist came from her youngest daughter, who was a gymnast and cheerleader. She would come home with pain in her hips and knees and Raugh wanted to help alleviate that pain.

“My husband was attending Piedmont Technical College in the business program,” she said.

“When I found out PiedmontTech had a massage therapy program, I knew I had to enroll.”

Raugh received her certificate in massage therapy in 2013 and then returned, earning her associate degree in 2016. She is currently an independent contractor working at StillWaters Natural Wellness Spa in Uptown Greenwood. And she says the program fully prepared her.

Now, not only is Raugh working as a massage therapist, she's also assisting the massage therapy program as a recruiter.

“I have seen what the program did for me and the flexibility that it gives and the rewards that come from it and I just want to pass that on to everyone to help make their dreams come true,” said Raugh. “I feel like my mission at Piedmont



Tech is to help the process for incoming students in the massage program be as painless as possible because I know the fear I had when I came in.”

Raugh said enrolling at PiedmontTech was one of the best decisions she ever made.

“I enjoy the fact that, after 27 years of marriage and raising a family, I have something to fall back upon,” she said. “I don't struggle with the empty nest syndrome because Piedmont Technical College gave me the tools that I needed to go out and accomplish my dreams.” ■



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 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 for 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.

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

South Carolina Mean Salaries
Farmer - \$76,880
Agricultural Technician - \$37,670
Nursery Operator - \$24,420



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 indispensable 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.

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
Office Technician Certificate

Business Administration

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

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

South Carolina Mean Salaries*
Tax Preparer - \$52,390
Medical Transcriptionist - \$35,570



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

Cybersecurity Certificate

Certified IT Professional Certificate

In today's Advanced Manufacturing operations, qualified employees are essential to a successful production operation. The Quickskills training programs listed below allow people to learn in a relatively short time frame the necessary entry level skills to help them start work with more than a basic understanding.

Machine Tool CNC Precision Operator

Students will learn and perfect introductory skills in the programming and daily maintenance of CNC machines. Various types of automated equipment, such as Coordinate Measuring Machines are utilized so that students gain practical experience that will help them obtain gainful employment in industry.

Manufacturing Production Technician

The curriculum includes mathematical and statistical techniques and applications, industrial safety and operational principles, production process cycle including resource availability, product specifications and state-of-the-art manufacturing practices, including Lean Manufacturing tools and techniques.

Precision Metrology Certificate

The Precision Metrology certificate is designed to upgrade or refresh skills for people familiar with measuring systems required in Advanced Manufacturing industries. Working with tolerances on the order of millionths of an inch, Quality Control Inspectors require the knowledge to operate highly sophisticated inspection equipment such as optical comparators, profilometers and CMM (Coordinate Measuring Machine) systems.

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.

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 Design 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 Design 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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

- Electrical and Electronics Drafter - \$62,780
- Electronic Engineering Technician - \$61,010
- Mechanical Engineering Technician - \$51,930

Engineering Bachelor's Degree Options

Agreements have been developed to provide 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.

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.

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

HVACR Installers 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

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

- South Carolina Mean Salaries**
- Automotive Technician - \$36,250
 - Carpenter - \$38,400
 - HVAC Technician - \$41,700
 - Electronics Technician - \$61,010
 - CNC Machine Tool Operator - \$37,490
 - Mechatronics Technician - \$61,146
 - Welder - \$38,400



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.

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 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 licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses or licensed practical nurses depending on their program of study.

A.A.S., Major in Nursing

D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing

LPN to ADN Nursing Transition Option

Occupational Therapy Assistant

As only one of three two-year programs of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's Occupational Therapy Assistant 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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

- Cardiovascular Technologist - \$47,810
- Funeral Director - \$42,430
- Human Services Assistant - \$26,270
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - \$39,410
- Massage Therapist - \$36,900
- Pharmacy Technician - \$30,060
- Radiologic Technologist - \$49,430
- Respiratory Therapist - \$50,240
- Registered Nurse (RN) - \$61,110
- Veterinary Technologist - \$29,940

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

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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

- Police Officer - \$40,340
- Preschool or Daycare Director - \$47,310
- Preschool Teacher - \$30,320

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

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

REGISTER NOW!

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Technical College

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