Piedmont Technical College

Summer 2011 Volume 2 • Issue 2

CareerFocus™

Job Hunting Rules to Ignore

Get Ahead of the Class

Complete college faster by starting in high school

Flexible Classes for Busy People

But I don't have time to go to college!

From Classroom to Clinic

Hands-on Learning in PTC's Veterinary Technology Program

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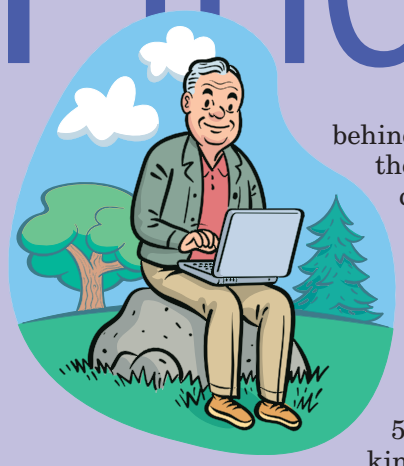
Facts and Finds

Facts AND Finds



Over What Hill?

A person in which age group is most likely to create a successful start-up company?

a. 20-34 b. Over 55

How old is the average founder of a start-up company?

a. 27 b. 40

An employee in which age group is more likely to have innovative ideas that will result in higher returns for their employer?

a. younger b. older

The answer to all three questions is b. Are you surprised to discover how many older workers are behind creative ventures and innovative ideas? Despite the stereotype of brash, young entrepreneurs who crack open markets with their fresh thinking, it's mature workers who are more likely to start their own successful companies and to have the latest, greatest ideas for their employers, according to a Newsweek.com article titled "The Golden Age of Innovation."

In this day of early retirement incentives and 50-somethings in search of new jobs, that's just the kind of information that might give older workers (and their employers) incentive to tap into all that wisdom rather than retire to the bingo hall and the golf course.

Two is Too Many

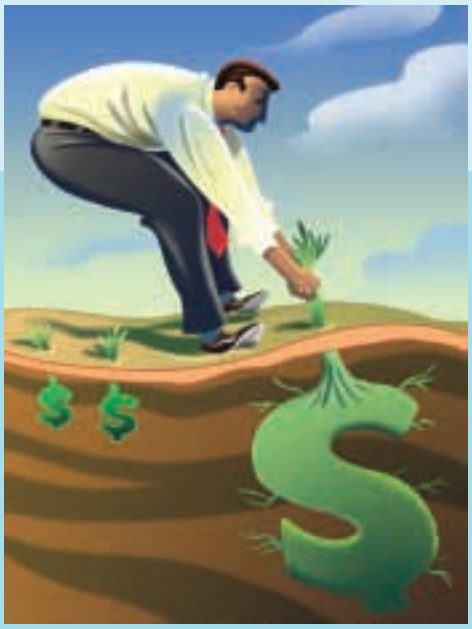
Stop trying to do two things at once.

Multitasking is dragging down your IQ, damaging the U.S. economy and perhaps even putting your health at risk.

No kidding. In a world in which nearly everyone has become adept at juggling e-mail, Internet, TV, and cell phone, we might want to try going back to doing just one thing at a time suggests an article in The New Atlantis.

Citing a variety of neurological and psychological studies, author Christine Rosen finds mounting evidence that trying to do too much at once isn't good for us. It's even got a name – "Attention Deficit Trait."

In the words of one researcher, "Humans are not built to work this way. We're really built to focus and when we sort of force ourselves to multitask, we're driving ourselves to perhaps be less efficient in the long run even though it sometimes feels like we're being more efficient."



Poll Shows Americans Support Two-Year Colleges

The vast majority of Americans believe it is better for some students to go to community college instead of a four-year school, according to a new poll by The Associated Press and Stanford University.

Overall, nearly 70 percent of respondents said the quality of education at community colleges is excellent or good, showing Americans are generally pleased with two-year colleges. Seventy-one percent said it's sometimes better for students to pursue a diploma or certificate from a two-year school than aim to enter a four-year college. The poll was funded in part by a grant to Stanford from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Who Makes How Much and Why

Of course it's not all about money, but who isn't interested in knowing what everyone else is making? For the curious, the most recent U.S. Census report spells out just what Americans earn.

The median (midpoint) income for all U.S. households is $49,777* while the median earnings for all individuals age 25 and older is $35,381**.

U.S. Household Income

Income	Percent
Under $15,000	13
$15,000 to 24,999	11.9
$25,000 to 34,999	11.1
$35,000 to 49,999	14.1
$50,000 to 74,999	18.1
$75,000 to 99,999	11.5
$100,000 to 149,999	11.9
$150,000 to 199,999	4.4
$200,000 and over	3.8

The previous chart represents household income, which can include one or more individual incomes per household, but the following chart represents individual income.

While there are sure to be exceptions, putting these charts side by side makes it pretty clear how a college education can boost income.

Wherever you're headed, beginning your education at a two-year college is a great way to get off to a solid start—both financially and academically.

Boost Your Earning Power with Education

Education	Median Income
Less than a high school degree	$20,246
High school degree	$27,963
Some college	$31,947
Associate degree	$36,399
Bachelor's degree	$48,097
Master's degree	$58,522
Professional degree	$87,775
Doctorate degree	$80,776

**2009 **2008*

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)941-8541.

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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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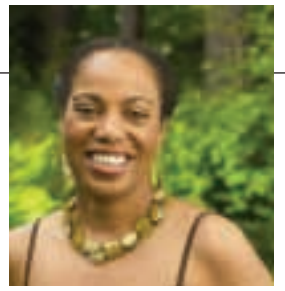

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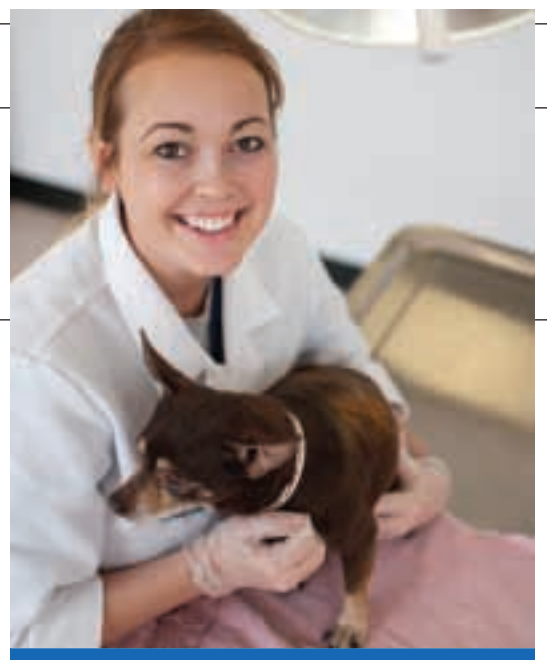


On the cover:
Jordan Kay
Senior Veterinary Technology Major

Feature

Rules to Bend, Break and Ignore

Some job hunting conventions no longer apply in today's job market

It feels more important than ever in this competitive market to do everything right in your job search. But you may want to rethink some of the rules you thought you knew.

If you have been using the following conventions to guide your search, experts say it's time to refine your approach.

1 Perfect your resume and use it to apply to as many jobs as possible

It's no longer enough to have just one resume, no matter how polished. Your resume needs to be customized for each job you apply for.

Jobseekers should make "their resume reflect the job they want, not necessarily the job they've had," says Teri Cullen, career services manager at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove, Ill.

But won't that take more time, thus reducing the number of resumes you can send out? Yes–and that's not a bad thing.

"Everybody always thought, 'OK, I did this one resume, I send it out to 500 employers, and it works,'" says Pat Nash, associate dean of career and advising support at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, N.C.

But it doesn't work anymore. Instead, you need a resume that clearly shows your interest in and qualifications for a specific job.

"Instead of doing this shotgun approach–send your resume to everyone and it will stick somewhere–in this job market what you really need to be doing is targeting your resume to the companies who would hire you," says Kathryn Ullrich, who runs alumni career services at the UCLA Anderson School of Management and is the author of *Getting to the Top: Strategies for Career Success.*

2 Make sure your resume has one full page for every 10 years of work experience

Although your resume may turn out this length, it should be because you included all the relevant information–no more, no less.

"I love seeing something end without being filled with fluff," Ullrich says. If you include everything you need and your resume is one-and-a-half pages, don't feel obligated to fill the second page.

It needs to have white space so it's readable. This may mean going over one page even if you haven't reached the 10-year mark.

"Trying to cram everything onto one page is not the answer," says career expert and strategist Mary Jeanne Vincent.

3 Write a cover letter that discusses your career in detail

You do need a cover letter, Ullrich says, "But make it short." Explain how you heard about the job opening, then use bullet points to list the ways in which you match the job description. Finish by explaining how you'll follow up.

4 Don't bother people for informational interviews–they're too busy

Do your research so you know what to ask–and then don't be afraid to call. Yes, it's true that some people feel so overworked that they can't spare a few minutes to help a job hunter. But if you show a genuine interest in their work (as opposed to simply asking for a job), many will be glad to help.

"I'm finding across the board that people are willing to help," says Marianne Adoradio, a career counselor in Silicon Valley. "It could be that people feel badly that it's so hard to get jobs right now."

5 When your phone rings, be prepared to set up an interview

That phone call may actually be the first interview. "Employers are screening people more by telephone," Nash says. "If you don't make it past that initial screening, you don't get offered the opportunity to come in and interview."

So make sure your voice mail has a professional-sounding message on it. And if an interviewer catches you on your cell phone in a noisy, distracting place, don't be afraid to ask if you can call right back from a quieter location.

6 Take any job you're offered

Depending on how badly you need the money, you may end up having to take a job that's not your ideal. But don't start out with that attitude.

"It's a mistake to say that you'll take anything," Vincent says. "You're setting your sights too low."

If you end up settling for less than your dream job, try to find one that could offer a path to where you want to go. "If you do need to take a step back, try to do that at a company where you can work on making a transition to a new job," Ullrich says.**CF**

It's time to rethink some of the rules you thought you knew.

Piedmont Technical College | www.ptc.edu | 800.868.5528

Tangled in the Web

Job hunters, be careful what you post online

With the ubiquity of the World Wide Web, "Today's job seekers face a new reality when it comes to their online identity," says Chris Russell, who publishes *the Secrets of the Job Hunt Web site and blog.*

Over 80 percent of recruiters say they use search engines to uncover information about job candidates, and over 40 percent have eliminated a candidate based on information found online, according to 2007 data from ExecuNet. Managing that virtual picture is key when you're under the job-hunting microscope.

Your online identity "is comprised of everything about you that can be uncovered online," says Della Giles, director of BlueSteps.com, a career management Web site of the Association of Executive Search Consultants.

That means your Facebook profile (complete with pictures of your best friend's wild bachelor party), a media interview you did three years ago, your bio on a former employer's Web site or your resume posted at a career site. And whether that identity is positive or negative can mean the difference between a lucrative job offer or…a "thanks but no thanks" form letter.

"By definition your online identity is fragmented and incomplete," she says. "Different sites, different sources of information, different posters and different rationales behind posts form a picture of who you are and what you're about.

"Even if someone were to assemble these disparate pieces of information, your online identity would be an incomplete picture of you, and not likely a totally 'valid' picture."

When it comes to managing your online persona, following a few simple do's and don'ts will make your life a lot easier once job-hunting time rolls .**CF**

Over 80 percent of recruiters say they use search engines to uncover information about job candidates.

DON'T

Don't assume it's private

It's easy to assume that material you post to your online profile for your and your friends' personal enjoyment is private. But it's not. Recruiters and employers can easily access sites such as MySpace and Facebook and see what you're up to.

Remove suggestive pictures, make sure text is well-written, grammatically correct and free of slang and four-letter words, recommends Richard White, director of Career Services at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. If you're not willing to do that, at least make sure your privacy settings allow access only to those you know personally.

Don't forget your friends

Remove links to friends' sites that display suggestive or otherwise inappropriate content, adds White. Granted recruiters and employers are busy people and may not make hiring decisions based on the company you keep, but why take the chance? "Reject" friends with questionable content on their profiles, White recommends.

Don't forget it's permanent

"Candidates must know that anything written about them online, whether positive or negative, is a permanent record," says Russell, "kind of like a 'digital tattoo.'" Job seekers should Google themselves occasionally to see what the Internet says about them, he adds. "If you find something negative, ask (the site owner) politely if it can be removed."

DO

Create a positive presence

Consider establishing your own Web site. Buy the domain closest to your name, and then use that iteration on your resume and correspondence, e.g., John C. Smith, Jr. and www.johncsmithjr.com. Post a bio on the site and highlight relevant career accomplishments.

Starting a blog can help too. "A candidate who writes a blog about the fields he wants to work in has a much better shot at a job over candidates who don't blog," says Russell. It can be a way to differentiate yourself and rise above the crowd."

Create a professional profile

Sites such as LinkedIn, Ziggs, ZoomInfo, Naymz, Jobster and Emurse allow users to create free profiles. "They can be a great way to be found online, and recruiters love to search them," Russell says.

Be proactive

What if you do a Web search and find out there's another John C. Smith, Jr. whose mug appears on a Wanted poster? Be proactive in pointing out to recruiters and potential employers that you're not one and the same. (And then direct them to your blog, Web site or LinkedIn profile!) Sites such as ClaimID.com and ReputationDefender.com – and others like them – can assist.

If you do have a few specks of "digital dirt," all may not be lost. "Every company is a little different when it comes to interpreting information they find about candidates on sites like MySpace and Facebook," says Russell. Still, "If a company sees a candidate who is half-naked or in other unflattering poses, it's a risk the job seeker must come to grips with.

PTC Programs

Get Ahead of the Class

Complete college faster by starting in high school

If you could earn college credit while you're still in high school—for free—why wouldn't you? That's exactly what Piedmont Technical College's Dual Enrollment program allows students to do.

Unlike other advanced credit programs in which college credit depends on how well you take a test, Dual Enrollment students can be sure their work will count toward their studies when they're ready to apply to college. Hundreds of high school students all over the region are already taking advantage of the program to jumpstart their college careers.

Shiniqua Brooks. Earned 12 credits at PTC. Entering college as a second semester freshman.

Two Formats for Classes

Traditional Dual Enrollment Classes are taken at a student's high school. Dual Enrollment students may earn high school Carnegie Units and college credit, too. When students participate in six credit hours per semester, these classes are free.

OnDECK classes are designed for high school students to earn high school Carnegie Units and college credit at the same time, but are offered on a PTC campus. These classes are available to students in public, private or home school associations. OnDECK classes are free to students enrolled in six or more credit hours per semester.

Get a Head Start on College

Whether students take classes at their high school or on a Piedmont Technical College campus, they get both high school and college credit in PTC's Dual Enrollment classes—which can shorten the amount of time it takes to earn a bachelor's degree and save a lot of money on tuition.

"I thought Dual Enrollment classes would be a good opportunity to get some of my foreign languages out of the way that I would need for high school as well as college, so I got to kill two birds with one stone and get college credit for the high school classes that I would be taking anyway," says Marlena Alvarez, a PTC student who started out in Dual Enrollment, and plans to transfer her credits to Lander University.

Zach Long. Earned 32 credits at PTC. Entering college as a sophomore.

Dual credit students can choose to just take a few courses—or, if they're really motivated, they could even complete the full first two years of a bachelor's degree, then transfer into their college of choice at a dramatically reduced cost.

Course offerings are determined by PTC and the school you attend. Typically, a wide range of transferable general education courses are offered: from English and history, to macroeconomics and trigonometry.

PTC offers more than 80 courses approved to transfer to any senior public institution in the state by the SC Commission of Higher Education, and many private colleges in the state also accept them. All four-year public senior institutions in South Carolina also have transfer equivalent guides, which list other courses that will transfer. These guides may be obtained directly from the senior institution or from PTC's transfer coordinator.

Save a Bundle on Tuition

College tuition is getting more and more expensive these days. For the freshman and sophomore years, the costs at some of South Carolina's public colleges and universities can be over $20,000—just for tuition and fees. And that doesn't include room and board, spending money or any of the other costs associated with attending college.

So it's good to know there are options to make it more affordable. Students enrolled in PTC's Dual Enrollment program can take transferable college courses for free, saving thousands of dollars in tuition costs, and shortening the time it will take to earn a bachelor's degree.

Is it right for everyone?

"Admissions requirements get more and more competitive every year," says Shelby Dominick, director of Dual Enrollment. "Taking college courses while still in high school can show admissions officers how serious you are about your studies."

Dominick says that there are additional benefits for students who choose to participate in PTC's OnDECK program. "These students get the experience of taking classes

“Admissions requirements get more and more competitive every year. Taking college courses while still in high school can show admissions officers how serious you are about your studies.”

on campus in a collegiate environment, so they’re really more prepared to succeed at the college level when they enroll.”

Dominick stresses that, before applying, students should understand that the Dual Enrollment program is an opportunity to take courses at the college level, so the amount of work necessary to succeed is usually much greater than in high school courses. Because Dual Enrollment courses become part of a permanent college transcript, students should be ready to commit to doing the work required.

To participate in dual enrollment, students must receive parental permission, complete a placement test or submit acceptable SAT or ACT scores and have the approval of their guidance counselor or dual enrollment liaison. All grades earned are reflected on each student’s official PTC transcript. Most courses are transferable to other colleges and universities.

For more information, visit http://dual.ptc.edu or call Shelby Dominick at 864-941-8397. **CF**

Articulation agreements make transfer seamless

From PTC to Bachelor’s Degree

Dual Enrollment classes are a great way to earn advanced college credit and save money on tuition, but they’re not the only option available at Piedmont Tech for students headed toward a bachelor’s degree. If you’re already a high school graduate, Piedmont Technical College has articulation agreements with more than 15 colleges and universities throughout South Carolina, including Clemson, USC Upstate and Columbia College.

Even better, PTC has signed bridge agreements—special programs designed to make your transition from PTC to a four-year college as seamless as possible and to increase your likelihood of success once you’re enrolled at your chosen institution—with five different colleges:

- University of South Carolina
- College of Charleston
- Erskine College
- Lander University
- Newberry College

So wherever you’re headed, you can start at PTC and get there. And you’ll save a lot of money along the way.

Student Profile

Abbe Cannon

PTC Student Earns College Degree and High School Diploma Simultaneously

Abbe Cannon may look like your typical teenager. She’ll graduate this spring from Emerald High School alongside her classmates.

But she’s done something extraordinary. She will also be a 2011 graduate of Piedmont Technical College.

Cannon began taking Dual Enrollment classes in the summer before her junior year and will participate in graduation exercises at Piedmont Tech mere weeks before she receives her high school diploma. She will officially receive her Associate in Science degree six days after marching at Emerald High School.

“When I graduate, I will have 62 college credit hours and enter Anderson University in the fall as a junior,” Cannon said.

Cannon first heard about the Dual Enrollment classes when her sister enrolled. Though she only took a few classes, they caught Cannon’s attention. Then a passing remark from her mom set Cannon on her course.

“My mom is an extremely proactive mom,” Cannon said. “She said ‘You know, you could probably graduate from Tech if you wanted, if you had enough credits.’”

The comment stuck with Cannon, who decided that she wanted to graduate from Piedmont Tech and Emerald High School at the same time. While she enrolled in the traditional Dual Enrollment classes, Cannon also took night, summer and online courses ranging from calculus, chemistry and Spanish to speech and astronomy.

“All the classes that are offered – regular, night and online classes – work so very well with any schedule,” she said.

Completing her college degree requirements before obtaining her high school diploma is a weird feeling, Cannon said, but it gives her a sense of accomplishment. And she wants to share that feeling with family and friends.

“Most of them don’t realize what they can do here because they just think about the Dual Enrollment classes,” said Cannon. “They don’t realize there are other opportunities with online classes and night classes if you really want to go after them. I tell them just to make sure they know their options and make sure they understand everything they could be doing.”

“Abbe was very diligent in starting the planning process for where she wanted to end up, which is what we encourage all dual enrollment students to do,” said Shelby Dominick, Dual Enrollment director. “That preparation is how they can earn true dual credit that will count toward their college major.”

Cannon said the experience of attending Piedmont Tech during her high school years will make her a better prepared student at Anderson University.

“High school is a lot different than college, even if you are taking Dual Enrollment classes at the high school,” she said. “Coming here gives you more responsibility because I choose to come to class. It’s prepared me for the college experience.” **CF**

But I don't have time to go to college!

Piedmont Tech Offers Flexible Classes for Busy People

Between the job and the kids (and the bills and the lawn and the car repair) how can you ever find time to take those classes you need or get the degree you always wanted?

Every year the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys Americans about their daily activities. The results in 2010 showed most adults are pretty busy folks.

Add that up for, say, a working woman with a child under 6 who's taking college classes, and she might need slightly more than a 24-hour day to complete everything.

A little flexibility can make it easier. Piedmont Technical College has offered evening classes for working students for decades. For students who can't make it to Greenwood, PTC's six county centers are located within easy driving distance to increase access.

Various programs, such as the Funeral Service program, also package classes in a way that fit busy schedules.

But sometimes there isn't even enough time to come to a class, no matter where it's located. Piedmont Technical College can help in that area, too, with a variety of online courses to fit even the busiest of schedules.

County Centers

Piedmont Tech currently operates centers in Abbeville, Edgefield, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties. These centers are close to your home and offer morning, afternoon and evening classes. Several full associate degree programs are offered at each center, and credit courses include many that fulfill the general education requirements for each of PTC's associate degrees, as well as many that transfer to four-year institutions. Continuing education courses are also available at several locations.

The centers are a great place to start for adults who have been out of school for a long time and are apprehensive about returning. Staff at each center can provide assistance, answer questions and help you register for classes.

PTC Online

A wide variety of courses are offered online at Piedmont Tech, and several degrees are available entirely through the Web. These classes are similar to traditional classroom-based courses. You can interact with your instructor and collaborate with fellow online classmates. With a proper Internet connection, you can take your online class at a location of your choice 24/7.

REACH Program

REACH is a program that allows you to finish your associate degree in only two years, by attending classes just two nights a week.

Classes are held at the same time each week, and your condensed class schedules are pre-planned and pre-packaged for your convenience. You won't waste time waiting for the next class to start or taking classes you don't need. That also means no scheduling hassles, and you won't have to worry about the classes you need filling up before you get a chance to register.

An Option That's Right For Everyone

Although thinking about going back to school can be daunting, PTC's flexibility makes it possible for everyone to get a college education. You can gain skills, and earn the credentials you need to succeed in today's competitive employment market. The options mentioned above can be combined in a way that works for anyone's schedule. Make an appointment with an admissions counselor today, and let us show you how you can have time for a life while pursuing your educational and career goals.

For more information about PTC's flexible learning options, call admissions at (864) 941-8369, or visit us online at www.ptc.edu/admissions. **CF**

PTC Locations

Abbeville County Center
283 Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, SC 29620

Edgefield County Center
506 Main Street
Edgefield, SC 29824

Greenwood Campus
620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, SC 29646

Laurens County Higher Education Center
663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, SC 29325

McCormick County Center
516 Kelly Street
McCormick, SC 29835

Newberry County Center
540 Wilson Road
Newberry, SC 29108

Saluda County Center
701 Batesburg Highway
Saluda, SC 29138

On CAMPUS or ONLINE?

How to know which option is right for you

What do students like most about online courses?

The overwhelming majority agree that it's convenience that makes online courses attractive. The ability to study at a time and place of their choosing, to fit school into busy and changing personal schedules—these are the reasons people study online.

Pros

Online courses can save commuting time and expense, and allow students to spend more time with their families, and online courses allow students to learn at their own pace. Also students who wouldn't usually participate in a regular classroom setting may be quite vocal in an online chat or discussion group.

And cons

But online courses are not without drawbacks. Students who have taken online courses often miss the personal interaction with classmates and the immediate feedback from instructors that come with traditional courses.

And students shouldn't enroll in an online class thinking it's going to be easy. An online course may require more time than a traditional class.

There is also much more individual responsibility placed on students who take courses online. But students who are self-motivated and have a good understanding of computers should do just fine. Because much of the course content is text-based, online courses may not the best option for students who don't like to read.

Hybrid: The best of both worlds?

Students who are considering an online class should also consider another course format, called "hybrid" which combines traditional on-campus classes with extensive use of online resources. That way, students can gain experience with online learning but have the security of the traditional classroom.

Usually hybrid classes will meet one day a week and the majority of the coursework will be online. The format works well for students who enjoy independent but guided study.

A hybrid course with extensive use of Web resources can promote a successful, active learning experience. Give a hybrid class a try and see if it works for you. You will be better positioned to evaluate if you would be a successful online learner. **CF**

PTC offers full degree programs online.

If you think online classes are right for you, you should know that you can get a full associate degree in several areas completely online.

Get more info about PTC Distance Learning at: http://www.ptc.edu/academics/dl

Are Online Classes for You?

1. Feeling that I am part of a physical classroom setting is:

a. very necessary.
b. somewhat important.
c. very important.

2. I generally:

a. get things done ahead of time.
b. need reminders, but get things done on time.
c. put things off until the last minute.

3. I prefer to communicate:

a. in writing.
b. in person, but I'm comfortable expressing myself in writing.
c. in person, face-to-face. I do not like to write.

4. I would classify myself as:

a. a good reader, able to understand most text material without help.
b. an average reader. Sometimes I need help understanding the material.
c. a slow reader. I often need help understanding text material.

5. I think face-to-face classroom discussion:

a. is helpful, but discussion via email is equally engaging.
b. is sometimes helpful.
c. is vital.

6. I generally prefer to:

a. figure out instructions myself.
b. try to follow instructions on my own, then ask for help as needed.
c. have instructions explained or demonstrated to me.

7. When faced with new technology such as gadgets and computer software I usually:

a. look forward to learning new skills.
b. feel some apprehension, but try it anyway.
c. avoid working with new technology.

8. Taking into account my professional and personal schedule, I have:

a. less time for an online course than an on-campus course.
b. about same amount of time for an online course as an on-campus class.
c. maybe even more time for an online course than an on-campus one since I don't have to commute.

9. If I have to go to campus to take exams or complete work I:

a. would have difficulty going to campus at any time.
b. will need to make an evening or weekend appointment.
c. can make arrangements to do so almost anytime.

Scoring:

One point for each "a" answer.

Two points for each "b" answer.

Three points for each "c" answer.

21 or more points: An online course would probably be a good fit for you.

15 to 20 points: An online course could work for you, but you should be prepared to make a few adjustments in your schedule and study habits to succeed. A hybrid course may be a good first step.

14 or fewer points: An online course is probably not the best way for you to learn right now. Your chance for success would be better if you enrolled in a traditional on-campus course. **CF**

From Classroom to Clinic

Hands-on Learning in PTC's Veterinary Technology Program

If you love animals and enjoy working with your hands, then the challenging career of Veterinary Technology may be just right for you.

In recent years, the profession of veterinary medicine has become even more sophisticated and complex. The public expects state-of-the art veterinary care for animals. To provide high quality service, today's veterinary team utilizes the skills of trained professionals known as veterinary technicians.

Designed to be a five-semester program that starts in the fall of each year, Veterinary Technology at Piedmont Technical College is designed to train licensed veterinary technicians. The curriculum prepares graduates to assist large- and small-animal veterinarians and provides opportunities for careers in research laboratories and pharmaceutical and veterinary supply businesses.

Piedmont Tech's program is the only one of its kind in the mid-state area of South Carolina, and one of only three programs of its kind in the state. The program at the Newberry County Center offers an Associate in Applied Science with a major in Veterinary Technology and serves the entire mid-state area.

A Wide Range of Career Options

With a projected 36 percent growth in employment throughout the U.S., the Bureau of Labor Statistics has listed a career as a veterinary technician as one of the top 50 fastest growing careers in the country.

"We see a very high demand for our graduates," said Sylvia MacFarlane, Veterinary Technology instructor and program coordinator. "We actually get calls from veterinary practices all over the region asking about students who are scheduled to graduate soon."

Veterinary technicians are important members of the veterinary health care team; they are educated in the care and handling of animals, the basic principles of normal and abnormal life processes, and in routine laboratory and clinical procedures. All veterinary technicians work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

"After students graduate and get their licenses, they can work in many facets of veterinary medicine," said Dr. Ruthie Buist, program veterinarian.

She says that students are well-prepared to work in clinical small animal practices which focus on common pets like dogs and coats. But they're also qualified to work in large animal practices, which focus on animals like horses and cattle, exotics and wildlife management, and in zoo animal medicine. Additionally, students can work in government-related careers, as USDA inspectors, in industry-related jobs in research, and in emergency and specialty medicine.

This variety of career options is reflected in the goals of the students who are currently enrolled in the program.

Candace Smith, a current Veterinary Technology student, hopes to be a member of a veterinary team in a zoo. "I am very confident that the knowledge and skills we are learning at Piedmont will help to prepare me for that path," she says.

Rose Walker, a student who will graduate in 2012 says, "I would like to work part time at a Veterinary Clinic and the rest of my time assisting a non-profit that trains and raises service dogs to assist those challenged emotionally and physically."

"Wherever our students want to go in the field, they can leave here confident that they'll be prepared," said MacFarlane.

AVMA-Accreditation

The Veterinary Technology program at Piedmont Technical College received accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association in June of 2009. Because of this important credential, students can sit for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) to become fully licensed veterinary technicians.

Accreditation is a process by which an educational institution or program submits to a voluntary, non-governmental review to determine whether it meets accepted standards of quality. The self-study included curriculum, equipment and OSHA procedures. The final appraisal of each program is based on review by an evaluation site team visit.

According to the AVMA, accreditation "represents the highest standard of achievement for veterinary medical education in the United States."

"The accreditation is a testament to the quality of the Veterinary Technology program at Piedmont Technical College," said MacFarlane. "It's a signal to employers that our graduates will be ready for the job on day one."

Real-World Training, One-on-one Instruction

Because the Veterinary Technology curriculum is technical, hands-on

Theresa Snook

Veterinary Technology Grad Returns to Assist New Students

Theresa Snook has come full circle in the Veterinary Technology program at Piedmont Technical College.

"The program was wonderful from the start," said Snook.

Snook was working with South Carolina Veterinary Surgical Specialists in Columbia when the veterinarian there recommended that she pursue a degree. The Lexington native chose PTC because of the conveniences provided by the program.

"Most programs are five days a week," she said. "At Piedmont Tech, I took classes and got a degree while holding a full-time job. Plus the location made it an even better fit for me."

Snook completed the program in 2009, earning her associate degree. She took a position at South Carolina Emergency Veterinary Services Clinic in Columbia, but she stays connected to the Veterinary Technology program at PTC. In addition to her full-time position in Columbia, Snook works part-time as a lab instructor for the program in Newberry.

"I chose to come back as a part-time instructor because it is very rewarding," she said. "I am able to help the animals at the Newberry Animal Shelter and the students who are learning the field."

The program introduces the students to a variety of areas in veterinary medicine. Students have visited farms, research labs and have worked closely with the Newberry County Animal Care and Control Center. Snook says this variety is what makes the Veterinary Technology program so appealing.

"The program here is very well rounded," she said. "We took many field trips to experience the different areas that are available."

Snook says the program was exciting, but more challenging than many people expect.

"The Veterinary Technology program is a lot of fun, but a lot of hard work," she said. "You learn a lot about animals, but you also see some hardships that anyone should be prepared to see. Just like with human medicine where you see some very sick and critical people, it also happens with animals and it can be very sad."

Snook hopes that she can help the students currently enrolled in the program become successful in the field.

"Throughout the many different courses I took, I became very well-prepared for my job and was able to fit right in with what was expected," said Snook. "The program continues to prepare students to be placed directly into a veterinary practice where they have a high success rate just like I did." **CF**

skills are greatly emphasized in order to teach students the best practices in working with animals.

"Although we don't house any animals at the Newberry County Center permanently, we work with the local animal shelter in Newberry County to give the students as much experience with various dogs and cats as possible," said Buist.

She said that the program uses the shelter's animals for teaching so that students can see all the different breeds as well as behaviors that different animals experience. For the large animal medicine classes, students visit local farms to get hands-on experience with dairy cattle as well as horses and other common large animal species like goats and sheep.

For Rose Walker, it's the hands-on training, combined with the expertise of the instructors that makes the difference.

"All the courses are extremely helpful, but I especially like the actual work with animals and learning one-on-one with instructors about techniques. We have two primary instructors who are exceptional teachers and very patient with us as we move from totally ignorant about things to quite well-versed about the care and support of animals," she said.

Candace Smith agrees. "The instructors we have in the program are very compassionate about what they do, and they are always available for any help or concerns the students may have. The classes are instructed in a way that is beneficial to all learning types, and there is a lot of hands-on experience that will help greatly in the future."

"We take student success personally. Ruthie and I work closely with each student to ensure that their academic goals are being met," said MacFarlane.

Overall, although the program is challenging, students graduate with a wealth of knowledge that they can directly apply to their careers.

Walker offers this word of advice to new students: "Just do it and take it one step at a time. It really helps to have a love for animals to keep you going when the academics get tough, but you cannot get a better education about this subject for a better price. Even if you decide not to go for full certification as a veterinary technician you will have information about the care of animals beyond your wildest dreams." **CF**

PTC Programs

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 (864) 941-8369 for answers to your questions. **CF**

PIEDMONT Technical College

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.

General Studies Certificate

This certificate program provides an integrated option for students seeking an introduction to various academic disciplines.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 15 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

PIEDMONT Technical College

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 - $32,300
Horticulturist - $35,600
Landscaping Supervisor - $39,000

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.

Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Advanced 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

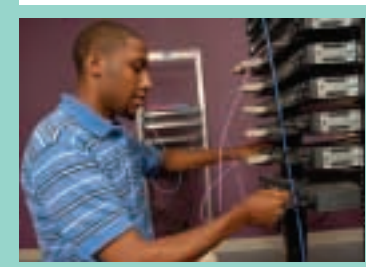
PIEDMONT Technical College

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*

Accounting - $52,000
Administrative Office Technology - $28,200
Office Manager - $40,700
Network Administrator - $59,800
Funeral Director - $52,600



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

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

Advanced Web Development Certificate

PC Technician Certificate

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.

Advertising Design Certificate

Desktop Publishing Certificate

Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate

Illustration Certificate

Photography 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

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 - $49,000
Electronic Engineering Technician - $54,800
Mechanical Engineering Technician- $46,700

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

Certificate Programs
Electrical Engineering Transfer

Mechanical Engineering Transferr

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 - $32,500
Carpenter - $32,500
HVAC Technician - $35,100
Electronics Technician - $45,600
CNC Machine Tool Operator - $34,100
Mechatronics Technician - $57,100
Welder - $33,700

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

Advanced 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

Construction Management Certificate

Carpentry Certificate

Gunsmithing
Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate

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

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

Mechatronics Technology II Certificate

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

D.A.S., Major in Welding

Journeyman Welding Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College — 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 - $46,500
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - $37,200
Massage Therapist - $34,200
Pharmacy Technician - $25,000
Radiologic Technologist - $47,800
Respiratory Therapist - $49,500
Registered Nurse (RN) - $57,200
Veterinary Technologist - $26,500

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

General Health Science
The General Health Science certificate offers students awaiting program entry a sequence of courses that meet the general education requirements of health science programs.

General Health Science Certificate

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.

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.

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 Program

A.A., Lander University Nursing Track

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.

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.

D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology

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.

D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

PIEDMONT Technical College — HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING

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

Health Science Transfer
Health Science Transfer Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College — 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 - $36,400
Corrections Officer - $29,700
Preschool or Daycare Director - $40,500
Preschool Teacher - $21,500
Human Services Assistant - $24,600

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

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

PIEDMONT Technical College — OCCUPATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The Occupational 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 requires that a student have completed or be in the last term of a diploma or certificate program of 28 hours. Students in the following programs, with general education courses and a secondary specialty, may earn an Associate in Applied Science with a major in General Technology: Advanced Agriculture, Advertising Design, Desktop Publishing, Horticulture Landscape Management, Illustration, Machine Tool, Mechatronics Technology I, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, Photography, Surgical Technology and Welding.

*Salary data is based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.
A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

Piedmont Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number (404) 679-4901) to award the associate degree and holds membership in the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges and in the American Technical Education Association. For a full list of accreditations, visit http://www.ptc.edu/about-ptc/accreditation

Upcoming Continuing Education Classes

Computer Training:

- Buying & Selling on Ebay!
- Computer Skills 101 Series
- Introduction to Microsoft Excel
- Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint
- Introduction to Microsoft Word
- Managing Files & Folders

Personal Enrichment Classes

- Defensive Driving
- Dog Obedience
- Driver's Education
- Intermediate Cake Decorating
- Introduction to Crocheting NEW
- Ipad for Beginners NEW
- Knitting for Beginners
- Puppy PreSchool NEW
- Motorcycle Safety- Beginner
- Motorcycle Safety- Intermediate
- Motorcycle Safety- Experienced
- Empowering Women's Series NEW

Summer Camps:

- Automotive Technology Summer Camp (Rising 8th, 9th and 10th Graders)
- Engineering & Technology Summer Camp (Rising 8th & 9th Graders)
- Girls Achieving in Technology & Engineering (G.A.T.E.) Summer Camp (Rising 10th, 11th, &12th Grade Girls)

Professional Development Classes (For a Career/CEUs)

- An Introduction to Command Spanish for Patient Care Providers NEW
- CranioSacral Therapy I Training for Massage Therapists NEW
- HR Legal Training Series NEW
- Law for Non-Lawyers
- Real Estate Classes
- Craft Marketing NEW
- Functional Pottery II NEW
- Decorative Pottery NEW

Health Care Classes

- AHS/BLS for Healthcare Providers Renewal
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Certified Nursing Assistant Exam Preparation
- Emergency Medical Technician-Basic
- Health Unit Coordinator
- Medical Coding for Medical Workers

Maintenance/Safety Classes:

- DOT HAZMAT Awareness LEVEL Training
- Biological Wastewater Laboratory Control & Field Testing
- Forklift Driving and Safety Training
- General Biological Recertification
- General P/C Recertification Review- 2 Day
- General P/C Recertification Review – 1 Day
- MSSC
- NFPA Training NEW
- Storm Water Training NEW
- OSHA 10 Hour
- OSHA 30 Hour

Do you have an idea for a class? We want to hear from you! Call (864) 941-8400.

- [x] Go to work
- [x] Pick up the kids
- [x] Pay the bills
- [ ] Get my degree

We know. Life gets in the way.
You know you can get your associate degree in only two years.

Now you can do it in just two evenings a week.

Introducing the REACH program.
Finally. College you can fit into your life.

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION & YOU COULD

WIN A $1,500 SCHOLARSHIP.

PIEDMONT Technical College
Your goals. Our mission.

REACH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO RSVP, CALL: (864) 941-8369 *or* CLICK: www.ptc.edu/reach