PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

FALL 2016 • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 2

CareerFocus™

Is your head in the cloud?

Computer careers in the era of cloud computing, big data, and the internet of things

Piedmont Technical College
PO Box 1467
Greenwood, SC 29648

MORE ON THE INSIDE:

FACTS & FINDS

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TAKE THE TRANSFER

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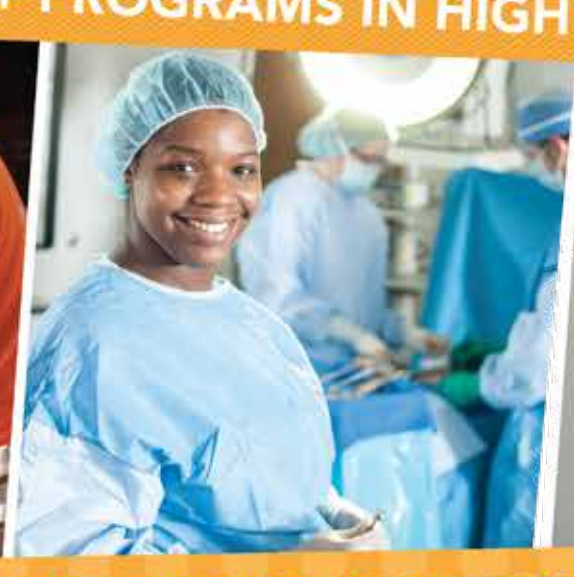

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PIEDMONT
Technical College

Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (855) 446-3864. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864) 941-8669.

Editor: . . . . . Russell Martin

Assistant Editor: . . . . . Dawn Lewis

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

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CareerFocus™

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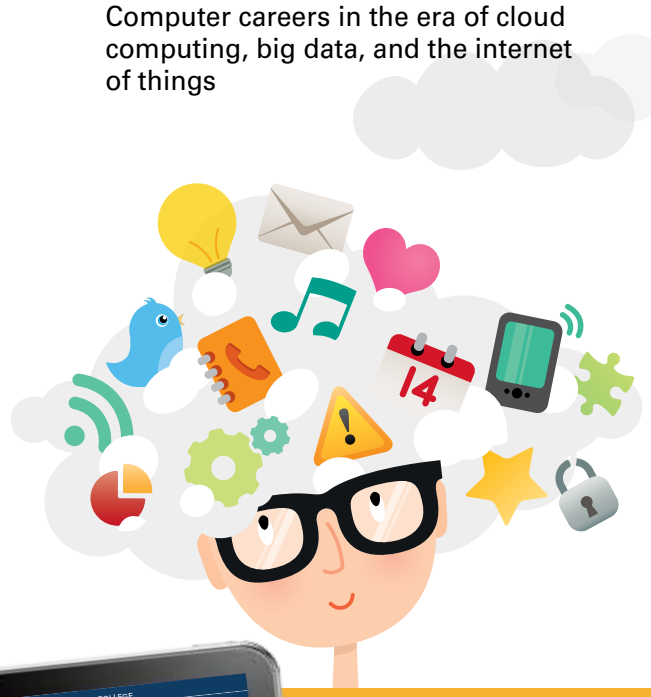

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On the go?

Get career and college tips anytime online at:

http://ptc.mycareerfocus.org

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

Facts and Finds

A watchful eye on a digital-age hazard

Protecting your eyes at work usually involves wearing special goggles or safety glasses that shield against chemicals and particles. Industrial and health care workers take routine precautions to avoid eye injury. But desk jobs can affect your eye health as well, and so can your after-hours activity.

The American Optometric Association has identified "digital eye strain," also called "computer vision syndrome," as a growing cause of vision problems in the workforce. In fact, the average American worker spends seven hours a day staring at a computer.

Symptoms of computer vision syndrome include eyestrain, headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes, and neck and shoulder pain. Some factors that contribute to the problem include poor lighting, screen glare, poor posture or sitting at the wrong distance from your screen, or working with uncorrected vision problems.

The AOA offers a simple "20/20/20 Rule" of advice to help prevent digital eye strain: Take a 20-second break every 20 minutes by looking at something 20 feet away.

More tips and information can be found here: *aoa.org/patients-and-public/caring-for-your-vision/protecting-your-vision/computer-vision-syndrome*

Flexibility: Part of the "new normal"

Flexible work schedules for full-time workers have become more common since the onset of the recession in 2008, the Families and Work Institute finds. A new survey of employers nationwide revealed that more than 2 in 3 companies allow employees to manage the times they come and go from work. Employers that are most likely to offer more flexibility and other benefits are nonprofits, those with more women employees, and those with fewer hourly employees.

Employees who enjoy greater flexibility at work have

- greater levels of engagement
- higher job satisfaction
- stronger loyalty to their employers
- less stress "spillover" between work and home
- better mental health

$809 billion

What community colleges and their students added to the US economy in 2012. Not too shabby! And that's not all:

"Over time, the US economy will see even greater economic benefits, including $285.7 billion in increased tax revenue as students earn higher wages and $19.2 billion in taxpayer savings as students require fewer safety net services, experience better health, and lower rates of crime."

Source: American Association of Community Colleges and Economic Modeling Specialists Intl., (EMSI).

Community colleges experiment with FREE

Around the country, thousands of new students are entering the doors of community colleges offering a trial run of tuition-free enrollment. Pilot programs in Chicago, Tennessee – and soon a multitude of other places – have been pitched as an engine of economic growth and a debt-free kickstart to careers for young Americans.

Politicians of every stripe have proposed affordable college plans and job training programs to help give a boost to the workforce. The debt burden on graduates has become a drag on economic growth in and of itself, experts say. According to the Institute for College Access & Success, 69 percent of 2014 grads left school with student loans averaging a whopping $28,950.

The waiving of tuition for two-year degrees presents a life-changing opportunity for many students. In Tennessee, 15,000 students jumped into community colleges this year after the state launched its lottery-funded "last dollar" program, which covers everything that federal aid doesn't.

Oregon is expecting 10,000 applicants when it goes tuition-free this fall. The city of Detroit and at least 10 states are also gearing up to give it a shot, hoping to reinvigorate the economy with skilled graduates. ■

Is your head in the cloud?

Computer careers in the era of cloud computing, big data, and the internet of things

With each passing year, the internet gets less "virtual" and more "reality." Online activity is increasingly part of core operations for banking, retail, health care, scientific research, and education. In today's economy, being connected is not optional.

That means a degree in computer science can take you just about anywhere, in any field. Computer and information technology jobs are projected to grow 12 percent by 2024, faster than the economy as a whole according to the Labor Department. The computer sector will swell to 4.4 million jobs by then, thanks to the unending developments in mobile technology, storage, and new applications of the internet.

In the blink of an eye

The internet has grown to over 3.35 billion users worldwide – nearly half the planet's population. Every single day, the more than one billion websites of the web generate about 300 times the content of the U.S. Library of Congress, the largest library in the world.

In one "digital second" in 2016, according to online tracker InternetLiveStats.com, 2.5 million emails are sent. Over 121,000 YouTube videos are viewed, 53,890 Google searches are made.

As boggling as these figures are, they are poised to grow to at least ten times their current levels by 2020. How will humanity store all this data?

Cloud computing

Cloud computing is a way of sharing the processing resources and data management online. Cloud computing makes it possible to reconfigure servers, networks, and storage to share space where it is needed.

The cloud approach untethers data from physical infrastructure, adding new efficiency. Businesses no longer need to house their own data centers, they can access resources in a way that is similar to how public utilities like the water system or electricity grid are accessed.

Big data

The more information produced and made available on the internet, the more complicated it becomes to process it. "Big data" is more than just the data itself. It is a field of computing that involves new methods of capturing, selecting, and analyzing all that material.

It's also the belief, writes Forbes technology reporter Gil Press, that "the more data you have the more insights and answers will rise automatically from the pool of ones and zeros."

Fundamentally, Press adds, it is "a new attitude by businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and individuals that combining data from multiple sources could lead to better decisions." Sharing data can improve lives. "It's all about attitude, not technologies or quantities," he says.

The internet of things

Along with computers and smartphones, we use a growing number of electronic devices that are connected to the internet and transmitting information. Ordinary objects like thermostats, cars, even refrigerators, are now equipped with sophisticated sensors to collect data and network with other devices.

The "internet of things" is the integration of the physical world into computer-based systems. Sensors can now interact with light, temperature, location, voices and fingerprints, air quality and chemicals, and more. Health devices record data on heart rate, blood pressure, and the steps you take.

By 2020, tech research firm ABI Research estimates more than 30 billion devices will be wirelessly connected to the internet. The "wearable" computing and integration of everyday physical items into the internet will transform every aspect of work, economic transactions, and personal interactions with the world.

Continued on page 4

PROGRAM

Is your head in the cloud?

Continued from page 3

Virtually Limitless: A Career in Computing

Today, technology is used at home, at work, at school, on phones and nearly everywhere else in one form or another. It has become an indispensable part of everyday life. And in this rapidly-changing field, it's important to have a wide-ranging skill set.

Piedmont Technical College offers several pathways for developing the necessary skills to excel in a variety of technology-based careers. But none are more directly related to this topic than the college's computer technology program.

Computer technology students explore many different topics relating to computers, including computer maintenance, local and wide area networks, as well as popular programming languages. They also develop skills that provide a solid foundation for a career in the field and they learn from faculty who work hard to update their knowledge of this ever-changing field.

"We do a lot of research to stay on the cutting edge," said Lesley Price, computer technology program director. "We are continuously updating our content based on national certification requirements."

Computer Technology at PTC

In addition to learning from knowledgeable faculty members, computer technology students acquire hands-on experience in using several programming languages and learn core internet concepts. In this balanced program, students also study the challenges of online business operations and the underlying issues that determine how e-commerce opportunities can be successfully implemented.

One of the skills students in the program are learning is mobile app development.

"We think this is important because when you go into companies or medical offices you see employees using their phones and tablets for their jobs," said Price. "We are teaching our students to develop applications for those products."

Students in the associate degree program can choose from concentrations in Cybersecurity, Network and Programming. Cybersecurity, a rapidly growing field in computer technology, is the newest addition to the curriculum.

"Every network system needs security and every company has to secure customer data," said Price. "We are teaching students how to know if someone is trying to break into your network, to review logs and to do the research to figure out how this is happening."

The college also offers a PC Technician certificate that will prepare the student for an entry-level job in computer maintenance and network support, while teaching the objectives for several national certifications including A+, Network+ and Microsoft.

A Solid Career Path

In recent years, technology has rapidly expanded into all aspects of everyday life.

This explosive growth has created a demand for skilled technicians to maintain networks, to support users in everyday computing tasks, to design, maintain and implement new systems and more. More importantly, employers in the region know that Piedmont Tech is providing students with the right skills for success in this field.

"Being a Piedmont Tech graduate myself, I know that the quality of education they are getting is at a very high standard and we look for that in our employees," said Rocky Dunkman, owner and chief executive officer of Computer Consultants and Merchants in Greenwood.

"We've already hired PTC grads," Dunkman added. "We would definitely hire more. Their education level is quite high, their skillset is very good and we really enjoy working with Piedmont Tech."

Dunkman's company is just one example of the college's reputation among employers in the region. In fact, many employers serve on program advisory boards, which help determine what's taught at the college. Companies represented on the computer technology advisory board, include, among others, Fujifilm, Eaton, Self Regional Healthcare and Velux. These relationships help prepare students for their careers, while also meeting the employment needs of businesses in the region.

"We have high expectations for our students," said Price. "We want to graduate the best students that we can possibly graduate and get them into the workforce."

To learn more about Computer Technology at PTC, call (864) 941-8746 or visit **www.ptc.edu/computer**. ■

Cybersecurity:

Virtual Crime-Fighting, Real-World Rewards

It may be a "virtual" realm of activity on the Internet, but the criminal activity out there is real. Fraud and identity theft are among the crimes identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as serious issues, and trained experts are needed to track down perpetrators and prevent illegal activities.

The field of cybersecurity is still evolving right along with technology, generating jobs at a much faster pace than the national average. In fact, information security jobs are projected to grow by 40 percent or more over the next decade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Wide range of applications

Because technology spans all industries, being skilled in computer data analysis opens up dozens of career doors beyond the government-related fields you might associate with cybersecurity.

Many cybersecurity experts work in the corporate world, where they protect social security and credit card information and financial transactions, or prevent leaks of products still in development.

Businesses employing cybersecurity workers can include banks, health care providers, tech and retail firms, "or any small business connected via the internet," according to the BLS. These employees may be focused on upgrading computer networks and regulating data access, or responding to breaches and viruses. The technology needs of businesses, large and small, are growing every day.

Cybersecurity at PTC

With a new computer technology concentration at Piedmont Technical College, students can begin building a foundation for entry level positions in this emerging field.

The concentration will provide students with the concepts and skills of cybersecurity, including security of systems and infrastructure in business and industry. Students will learn how to protect networks and defend information systems from attack.

Call (864) 941-8746 or visit **www.ptc.edu/computer** to learn more. ■

SUCCESS STORY

Wesley Allen

Grad turns love of technology into career

Wesley Allen has been interested in computers since the age of five.

"My grandfather actually worked in IT and he kind of fostered that love of computers," said Allen. "So, as I went on through school I continued with it. I built my first computer in high school and carried on from there."

Allen carried on by landing an internship at a local computer repair store in Sumter, South Carolina, where he lived at the time. After graduating from high school, that internship turned into a steady job that provided insight into what Allen would eventually choose as a career. The experience further strengthened his love of technology.

"I love technology," said Allen. "I really enjoy all of it. I especially enjoy how connected we are today worldwide."

After he graduated from high school and worked for a little while, Allen and his family moved to Greenwood where he decided to attend Piedmont Technical College. He started out in one of the college's engineering technology programs, but quickly gravitated back to computers. He graduated from the college's computer technology program in 2010.

"I really enjoyed the hands-on atmosphere in the classroom," said Allen. "I'm a visual person and I'm really hands-on. So once we went over the material, it was nice to get in the lab and cover what we were learning in class."

"Piedmont Tech definitely had a lot to offer for me," he added. "The small class sizes, the technology that was offered and the location, were really key in my decision to go there."

While at Piedmont Tech, Allen had an internship at Self Regional Healthcare that turned into a real career opportunity for him. "Prior to graduating Self Regional called me about an interview for another position that was after hours," he said. "The week after I graduated, I started orientation for my first job at Self."

Allen has worked for the company for six years, where he is currently working as an information security analyst. "I'm helping our clinical folks on the frontline by keeping their data secure," he said.

For those who are considering a degree in computer technology, Allen said "You really want to have an appreciation of computers. There's hard work involved for sure, but it pays off." ■

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CAREERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Computer Systems Analysts
2015 Median pay: $74,210 per year
$34.52 per hour
Number of jobs (2014): 7,495
Job growth 2014-2024: 23% (Much faster than average)

Database Administrators
2015 Median pay: $73,670 per year
$31.91 per hour
Number of jobs (2014): 1,258
Job growth 2014-2024: 12% (Faster than average)

Information Security Analysts
2015 Median pay: $71,600 per year
$32.97 per hour
Number of jobs (2014): 1,251
Job growth 2014-2024: 19% (Much faster than average)

Network and Computer Systems Administrators
2015 Median pay: $72,140 per year
$31.57 per hour
Number of jobs (2014): 4,605
Job growth 2014-2024: 12% (As fast as average)

Software Developers
2015 Median pay: $83,800 per year
$37.96 per hour
Number of jobs (2014): 2,583
Job growth 2014-2024: 19% (Much faster than average)

Web Developers
2015 Median pay: $58,710 per year
$26.21 per hour
Number of jobs (2014): 1,322
Job growth 2014-2024: 27% (Much faster than average)

Source: SC Works Online Services, https://jobs.scworks.org/vosnet/Default.aspx. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2015 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm.

Take the TRANSFER

The smart path to a four-year degree

The cost of a four-year degree and student loan debts have continued to rise in the last decade. That's one reason many students choose to attend a technical or community college as an affordable alternative to a four-year school.

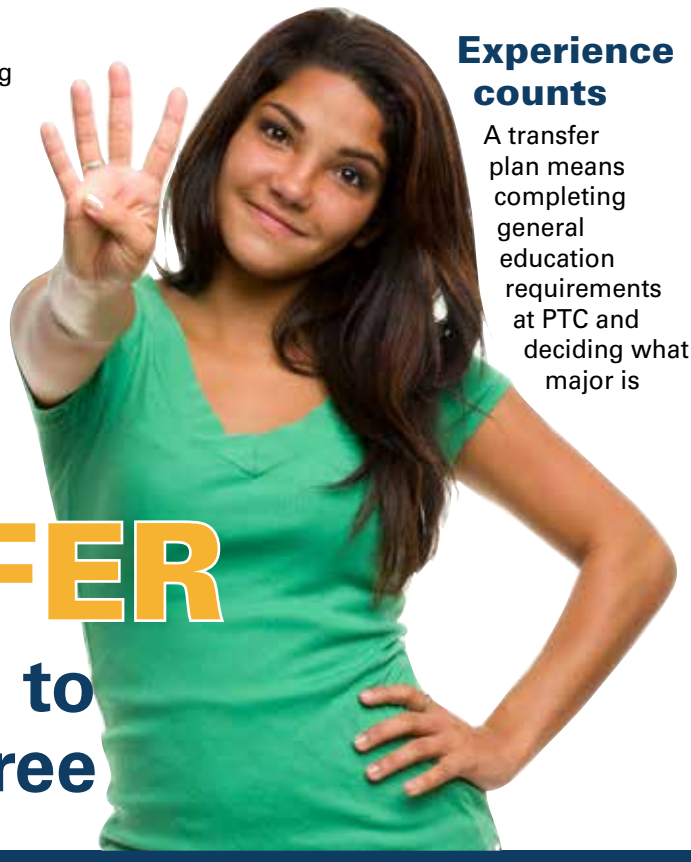
But education at a community or technical college doesn't have to end with a two-year degree. In fact, credit earned at a community college can often be transferred to a four-year school to count toward a bachelor's degree.

Avoid debt

Education is an investment worth making, but student loan debts can be a huge burden. On average, a 2015 college graduate is shouldering a whopping $35,000 in debt, according to financial aid website Edvisors.com.

Starting at a community or technical college can knock tens of thousands of dollars off the eventual bill for a bachelor's degree. At Piedmont Technical College, the cost of two years is $4,548. Compare that to $27,764 for two years at Clemson University and $22,964 for two years at the University of South Carolina. And private university costs are higher still.

Besides saving money in tuition costs, most Piedmont Tech students qualify for federal Pell Grants, which, unlike loans, do not need to be paid back. For more information on financial aid like grants and scholarships, visit **www.ptc.edu/aid**.



Experience counts

A transfer plan means completing general education requirements at PTC and deciding what major is right for you. Not only will you save money, you'll have access to attentive faculty and benefit from small class sizes and hands-on classrooms.

Maybe you've got your eye on a degree from a university where your high school GPA or entrance exam scores kept you from admission. By starting at a community or technical college, you can improve your academic qualifications.

Universities consider admissions for transfer students based more on the work they put in to previous college courses than on high school grades. Getting involved in extracurricular activities like student government and clubs can also improve your transfer prospects.

Plan ahead

The key to a successful transfer is planning. If you know where you'd like to transfer for a bachelor's program, start researching what the university and department requires.

PTC has articulation agreements with many four-year colleges and universities in a range of programs. That means credits earned in your first two years will count toward a degree.

What if you don't already know what you want to do? Taking the basic classes first will ensure you don't waste time and money while discovering your interests. The block of general education credits are designed to transfer.

An admissions counselor can help you understand the transfer process, as well as help you explore program options. We're here to help! Schedule an appointment at (855) 446-3864, or drop by the Admissions Office today. Learn more at **www.ptc.edu/transfer**. ■

SUCCESS STORY

Rossana Cubillan

Graduate finds strong foundation for success

Rossana Cubillan, a native of Venezuela, cited affordability and size as her main reasons for enrolling at Piedmont Technical College.

As a student she was very active outside of the classroom, as a member of the college's chapter of the American Chemical Society and as a Presidential Ambassador. Cubillan was also among the first students to be inducted into Piedmont Tech's Honors Program.

"For me the Honors Program was a good program because it helped me prepare to transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college," said Cubillan. "They prepare you with more challenging classes. For me it was even better because I want to go to medical school and that will be even longer and more challenging."

Cubillan said all of her activities helped her meet more people and stay involved outside the classroom. Which is a relief, since she is so far from home.

Overall, Cubillan feels like her choice has been a great introduction to the college experience.

"This is a great opportunity if you want to have a good education with less expense," said Cubillan. "The classes are the same as a four-year college and the instructors are good. Faculty and staff at the college are always willing to help you and make sure that all of your classes are going to transfer."

Cubillan graduated from Piedmont Tech in 2015. She is now enrolled at Lander University where she is working on a degree in biology. ■

Giving Hope: Communities invest in education

Financing a college education is more challenging today than ever before, and attaining a postsecondary credential is now all but mandatory for success in today's economy. Businesses and community leaders in the region realize how important this is. That is why a couple of counties in Piedmont Technical College's service region have worked hand-in-hand with business and educational institutions to help make education affordable for the next generation of college students.

This help comes in the form of the Greenwood Promise which is serving Greenwood County residents and the Laurens County Future Scholarship which is serving Laurens County residents.

The Greenwood Promise

The Greenwood Promise is a community initiative designed to ensure Greenwood County students have a path to opportunity.

More than five years in the making, with private support and investments, this scholarship program will provide the financial means for all graduating seniors to earn at least an associate degree.

Starting with this year's high school senior class, the Greenwood Promise is making a promise to every student enrolled in a Greenwood County public, private or accredited home school, and meeting the residency requirements, that the financial support to receive at least an associate degree will be there for them after graduation from high school.

For more information, visit **www.greenwoodpromise.com**.

The Laurens County Future Scholarship

The Laurens County Future Scholarship allows eligible students to begin a quality college education – tuition free.

Qualifying Laurens County residents can now finish two full years of a technical program or the first two years of a bachelor's degree, as long as they maintain good grades and stay on track.

The scholarship pays all remaining Piedmont Technical College tuition once federal and state financial aid is applied to a student's bill. That means less debt and higher net earnings after graduation.

For more information, visit **www.futurescholarship.org**. ■

Bridge to a Bachelor's Degree

Bridge programs are designed to make the transition from PTC to a four-year college as seamless as possible and to increase student success once enrolled at a four-year institution. Piedmont Tech has bridge agreements with the following colleges and universities.

- College of Charleston
- Columbia College
- Erskine College
- Lander University
- Newberry College
- Presbyterian College
- University of South Carolina
- USC Aiken
- USC Upstate

Career-Specific Partnerships

For students who would like to continue their career-specific education beyond an associate degree, Piedmont Tech has cleared the way for them to get a bachelor's degree. In fact, all PTC associate degree programs have at least one transfer pathway. Some of our partnerships include:

- Anderson University
- The Citadel
- Clemson University
- Columbia College
- College of Charleston
- Lander University
- Limestone College
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Southern Wesleyan University
- South Carolina State University
- University of North Carolina Charlotte
- University of South Carolina
- USC Aiken
- USC Upstate

Half A Century of Service & Innovation

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

50

1966-2016

Transforming Lives.

Learn more about the history of Piedmont Technical College and tell us your story and more at **50years.ptc.edu**.

1960s

In the early 1960s, the formation of the South Carolina Advisory Committee for Technical Training was the spark that ignited a statewide push to create new programs that would meet the training needs of new and expanding industries in the region. This step quickly led to the creation of the Piedmont Area Commission for Technical Education and Training in 1963. Charged with developing, maintaining and operating a technical education center in the Piedmont district, the group worked quickly to construct the first Piedmont Technical Education Center (TEC) which opened in the fall of 1966 with nearly 300 students enrolled.

1970s

The benefits of having Piedmont Tech in the region were already being felt in the 1970s. In cooperation with the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, the college was instrumental in attracting six new businesses to the region, including Cincinnati-Milacron, Inc., the Grimes division of Midlands-Ross Corporation, Reliance Electric Corporation, Union Carbide Corporation, Westinghouse Electric Corporation and Velux-America. Over the years the college has had a similar impact in all seven counties of the service region.

By 1970, the college's overall enrollment had surpassed 1,000 students. To accommodate the training needs of a growing student body, Piedmont Tech continued to add new programs and facilities. Other counties in the region also started to pledge their support. By the end of the decade, the college had bridged strong partnerships with Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties.

1980s

The 1980s at Piedmont Technical College saw a continued expansion of training facilities. In fact, the college added six new additions, including a health science facility, conference center, continuing education complex, student center, multipurpose building and an automotive center. The facilities brought new life to the campus, with more room for student activities, assemblies and training opportunities.

The vitality of PTC has clearly been in its commitment to serve the community. With this in mind, the college became one of nine in the state to be approved by the S.C. Commission on Higher Education to add the associate in arts and associate in science degrees to their curriculum. These programs continue to offer a quality, affordable pathway for students to work toward a bachelor's degree.

1990s

Piedmont Tech opened up a new decade by expanding college facilities and programs into other counties in the region. The first of these facilities was the Laurens County campus, which opened in 1991. Centers opened in Abbeville and Newberry in 1996. And in 1998, centers opened in Edgefield, McCormick and Saluda. The addition of these campuses has continued to provide easier access to education for all students in the seven county area.

As the college expanded beyond Greenwood County with new campuses, educational access was also extended through the use of new technology. The PEN (Piedmont Education Network) was established in 1995 to link the college's 3,500 square mile service area with educational opportunities at the Greenwood campus, county centers, Lander University, area high schools and SCETV. This step set the stage for a range of distance learning opportunities that still exist to this day.

2000s

In the spring of 2007, more than 400 students received certificates, diplomas and degrees to mark the largest graduating class in college history. In July, long-time president, Dr. Lex Walters, announced he would retire at the end of the year. Honoring his 39 years of service to the technical college system, Dr. Walters was the commencement speaker at the summer graduation.

To round out the 2000s, the Piedmont Technical College Foundation received its largest grant ever, $1.5 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). The award was matched with funding from Saluda County to construct a new county center. On the heels of such good news, Dr. L. Rayburn Brooks was announced as the new leader of the college. He took the reins in March 2008.

2010s

Piedmont Tech has continued to build on its successes in the current decade with new facilities, such as the Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Laurens County, and new campuses for Abbeville and Newberry counties. PTC has established new, and strengthened existing transfer partnerships with colleges and universities throughout the state and beyond. Faculty and staff have also maintained strong relationships with business and industry to ensure that programs are designed to serve the workforce needs of the region. Most importantly, the college has continued to transform lives by providing students with the best foundation for achieving a lifetime of success.

Terms & conditions apply

College terminology 101

ACADEMIC ADVISOR OR COUNSELOR: An advisor helps plan your academic path. They can navigate paperwork and help select the right courses.

ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT: Credit hours a student has completed at another institution that are granted toward a degree. Credits can also be granted for "testing out" of a class, military service, or work experience.

ALUMNI: Everyone who has graduated from the college. A male grad is an "alumnus" and a female grad is an "alumna."

ACT AND SAT: The American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test measure knowledge of math, science, English and social studies. Most colleges require either ACT or SAT results for admission.

APPLICATION: The first step in enrolling in the college.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: This degree is awarded for the completion of a two-year program, usually requiring a minimum of 60 credit hours.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: The "undergraduate" degree awarded by four-year colleges, typically requiring a minimum of 120 credit hours.

CTE: Career and Technical Education certificate or degree programs lead directly to employment.

CATALOG: The catalog provides information you need to know about enrolling. This can be a physical catalog, or academic listings on the college website.

CERTIFICATE: A certificate is awarded for completing a program less than an Associate and usually takes less than two years.

CLEP: The College Level Examination Program is a set of exams that allow students to "test out" of classes, for a fee, if they demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter.

CONCURRENT OR DUAL ENROLLMENT: A student can simultaneously attend two educational institutions, such as high school and community college.

CORE CURRICULUM: All undergraduates are required to complete a "core" set of courses in basic areas like science and the humanities.

CREDIT HOUR: College classes are measured by credit hours. One credit hour equates to one classroom hour per week. Most classes are worth 3 credit hours.

CURRICULUM: A curriculum is the set of courses required to complete a program.

ELECTIVE: A class of your choosing taken to meet the credit-hour graduation requirement.

ENROLLMENT: Choosing classes each semester, and paying fees.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid – at fafsa.ed.gov – is the first step to receiving federal aid or consideration for scholarships or state aid.

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME: A full-time student is enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a semester, about 4-5 classes. A part-time student is enrolled in less than 12 credit hours in a semester, or 1-3 classes. To ensure that students finish their degree in two years, the recommended course load is 15 credit hours per semester or 30 per academic year.

GPA: The Grade Point Average is an average of a student's grades based on a 4-point scale. An A is a 4.0, a B is 3.0, C is 2.0, and D is 1.0.

HUMANITIES: Humanities courses include literature, philosophy, and fine arts.

MAJOR/MINOR: A major is a student's chosen field of study for a degree. A minor in a secondary field requires fewer credit hours.

PREREQUISITE: A course required in preparation for another course.

SYLLABUS: The instructor's outline of important information about a course, including exams, reading, and expectations.

TRANSCRIPT: The permanent academic record of courses taken and grades received at a college.

TRANSFER: If a student moves, or transfers, from one college to another, accumulated credit hours can also be transferred. The new institution decides which credits apply toward a degree.

TUITION: The cost of each credit hour. Tuition varies based on residency in a state, and does not include the cost of books, fees, or room and board. ■

BY THE NUMBERS

College courses are identified by numbers, usually containing 3 or 4 digits. The first digit indicates the class year in which the subject is usually taken. For example, a Freshman math class might be Math 103. The middle 1 or 2 digits are usually determined by the department, and the last digit sometimes indicates the number of credit hours the class is worth.

Where do you want to go?

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

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

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

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

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

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
Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson
Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson

BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

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

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.

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

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

BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

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

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

Advertising Design Certificate
Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate
Photography Certificate

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

A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology
PC Technician Certificate

QUICKSKILLS ADVANCED TRAINING OPTION

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

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.

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 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

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

A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology
Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

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

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

Gunsmithing
A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Gunsmithing
Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate
Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate

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

A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology
Heating Fundamentals Certificate
Refrigeration Applications Certificate

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

A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology
Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

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

A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology
D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool
Computerized Numerical Control Certificate
Machine Tool Operator Certificate
Precision Metrology Certificate

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

A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology
Mechatronics Technology I Certificate

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

A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Welding
D.A.S., Major in Welding
Basic Welding Certificate

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 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

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
A.A.N.T., Associate in Arts Nursing Transfer

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

HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC SERVICE

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice 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

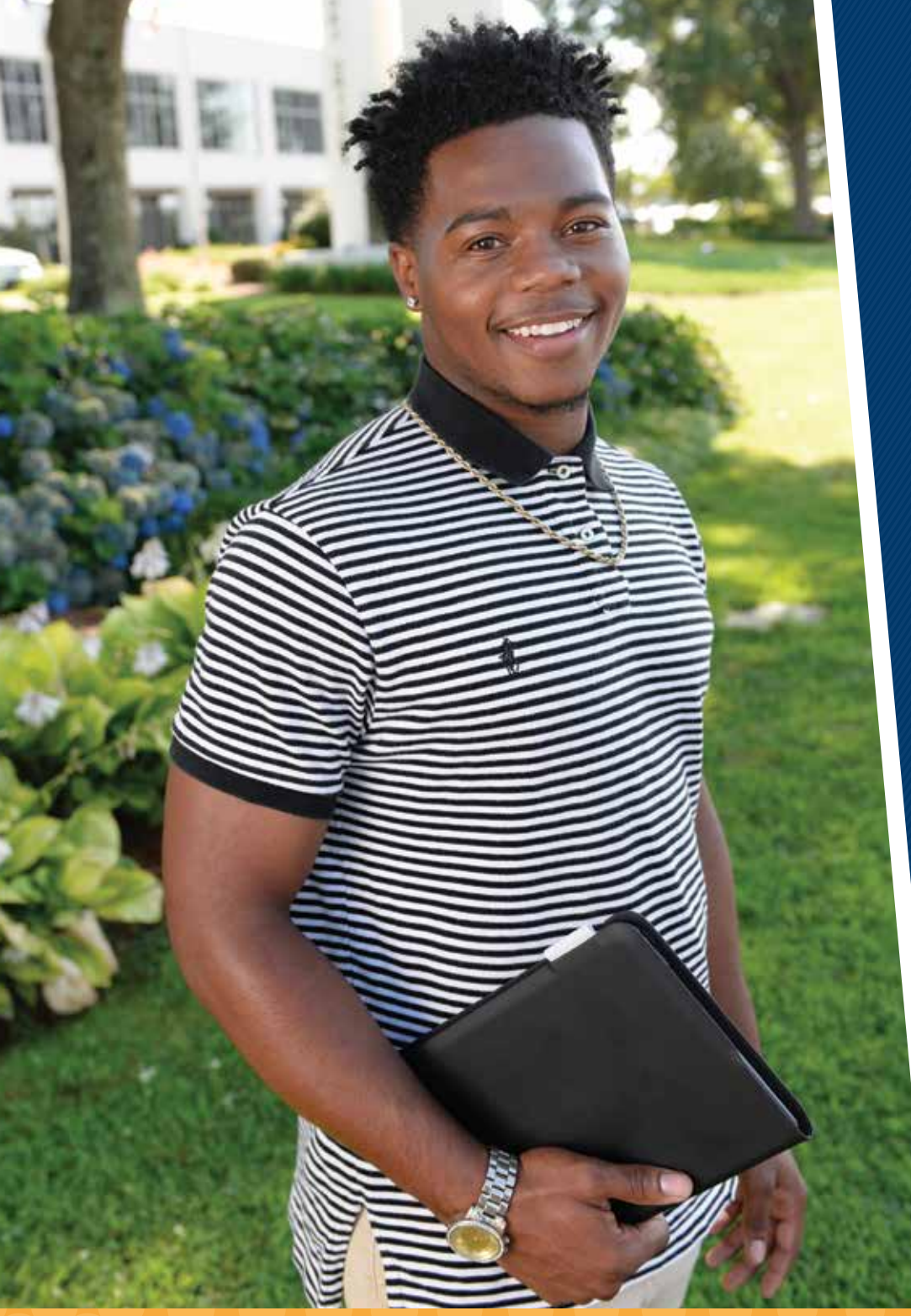
Early Childhood Development Certificate
Infant/Toddler Certificate

GENERAL TECHNOLOGY

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

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

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



START SMART START HERE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REGISTER NOW!

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