

Welding

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Why Welding?

Welding plays a critical role in the strength and durability of everything from cars to heavy industrial machinery to bridges.

In Piedmont Tech's welding program, you'll learn to weld in the four main positions on both structured steel and pipe. Hands-on shop work will give you practical experience in repair work on cast iron, silver brazing, soldering, stainless steel and aluminum. Practical experience in welding processes, together with a good foundation

in blueprint reading and sketching and the weld ability and properties of metals, mean that you'll be fully prepared to get started on the job after graduation.

Because of high demand, good earning potential and a shortage of workers, welding is an excellent choice for those with an interest in a hands-on career. You can also get started early through our dual enrollment agreements in some high schools. Check with your guidance counselor for more details.

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Welding

What will I do on the job?

Welders are technicians skilled in the art of joining metal. As a professional welder, you may manufacture products, build structures and repair broken or cracked structures using gas-fueled torches and electric-arc processes. You may also set up, operate or tend welding, soldering or brazing machines or robots that weld, braze, solder or heat treat metal products, components or assemblies.

What skills will I use on the job?

Depending on your career path, some of your responsibilities could require you to:

- Work from blueprints.
- Join metal pieces together or cut/trim metal pieces to desired shapes and sizes by applying intense heat.
- Select suitable electrodes, adjust electric current controls, start the arc by touching the metals to the electrode, withdraw the electrode and move it along the areas to be joined.
- Select welding rod and torch tip, adjust the valves that control the flow of gas into the torch and size of the flame and move the flame along the area to be joined.

How much can I earn?

S.C. Earnings Range: \$21,500 - \$44,200 **S.C. Average:** \$29,400

* Based on employment statistics from South Carolina Wage Information and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Visit our Web site for more information.

Who will hire me?

Graduates of the welding program are prepared to work for construction firms, sheet metal fabricators, plant maintenance providers, auto body welding companies and other heavy industrial careers. Job prospects should be excellent as employers report difficulty finding enough qualified people.

Recent graduates have found work with Actaris, BF Shaw, Inc., City of Elberton, Clendenin Lumber, Clinton Newberry Natural Gas Authority, Cooper Power Systems, Eaton Corporation, Fluor Daniel, Georgia-Pacific, Kimura, Inc., Komatsu, Metal Masters, PCA Rebuild Center, Velux, Vulcan and many more companies in our region.

Diplomas:

- D.A.S., Welding

Certificates:

- Journeyman Welding Certificate

For more information about the Welding Department, including course requirements, salary ranges and more, visit our Web site.

