

Machine Tool Technology

Bob Koster, Department Head, Metal Trades | 864-941-8471 | koster.b@ptc.edu

Johnny Merck, Instructor | 864-941-8472 | merck.j@ptc.edu



Why Machine Tool Technology?

If you take apart anything mechanical—from a car engine to a rifle or a microwave—you’ll find lots of precision-made parts like bearings, crankshafts and more. In fact, most modern technology depends on parts like these to function. In Piedmont Tech’s Machine Tool program, you’ll learn how to create the parts that make modern technology work.

A machinist can take raw materials and produce a

specialized finished product or item through knowledge that is a combination of theoretical information and hands-on experience. With practical experience in bench work, assembly layout, numerical control programming and machining, and more, you’ll be prepared to handle a wide range of responsibilities in the metalworking industry. You’ll get a full introduction to the field and practical experience in machining operations used in practically every manufacturing industry.

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Machine Tool Technology

What will I do on the job?

Some possible positions for graduates of the Machine Tool Technology program include: machinist, CNC operator, tool maker, technician, tool & die maker, maintenance mechanic and shop foreman. Advancement within the field comes with experience and may involve further education for certain career paths. Additional experience may lead to more technically complex work and to design or engineering technician duties.

Piedmont Tech also offers a specialized Gunsmithing program which will provide you with the training you need to create a variety of firearms from scratch.

What skills will I use on the job?

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

- Build tools, dies, jigs, fixtures and measuring devices used in the manufacturing of metal and plastic parts.
- Follow blueprints or other instructions to determine specifications and sequences of operations needed to make the tool, die or fixture.
- Mark reference points or lines on work piece to indicate machining operations or areas of metal removal.
- Operate lathes, grinders, mills and other machines to form the tool, die or fixture
- Assemble parts of machined items.
- Install repaired parts into equipment, or install new equipment.

How much can I earn?

Your earning potential will vary according to your career path. Find below some possible yearly earning ranges:

Machinist:

S.C. Earnings Range: \$20,000- \$46,500 **S.C. Average:** \$31,700

Tool and Die Maker:

S.C. Earnings Range: \$27,400- \$53,500 **S.C. Average:** \$42,400

*Based on employment statistics from South Carolina Wage Information. Visit our Web site for more information.

Who will hire me?

Since employers value the wide-ranging skill sets of machine tool graduates, job opportunities for machinists should continue to be good. The number of workers learning to be machinists is expected to be less than the number of job openings arising each year from the need to replace experienced machinists who retire or transfer to other occupations, so job openings should be in ready supply.

Recent graduates have found work with: Actaris, Alpha Manufacturing Company, Anderson Metals, Capsugel, East Teak Lumber Company, Eaton Electric, Eaton Hydraulics, Georgia-Pacific, Goodrich Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum, Komatsu, Nasmith, Solutia, and many more companies in our region.

Associate Degree:

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

Diplomas:

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

Certificates:

- Gunsmithing Certificate
- Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate
- Computerized Numerical Control Certificate
- Electric Discharge Machining Certificate
- Machine Tool Operator Certificate

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

