

CareerFocus

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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Modern Apprenticeship The Numbers Don't Lie



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EVOLVES AT
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IS ABOUT SO MUCH MORE
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Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College System, is a public comprehensive two-year postsecondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health, and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The College offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; college preparatory programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed credit and non-credit programs to provide training for business and industry and to meet the needs of the community. To optimize access to higher education in the rural seven-county service area, Piedmont Technical College offers distance learning courses through multiple modes of delivery.

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CareerFocus

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Greenwood resident and business administration major Noel Johnson.

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Get career and college tips anytime online at
<http://ptc.edu/careerfocus>

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



Reduce plastic waste = cleaner planet

Did you know that despite the world's efforts to recycle plastic, 91% of it ends up in the trash and much ends up in our oceans? A study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* last year reported that a translucent strip of plastic from a cigarette box wrapper was found in a jellyfish in the Mediterranean Ocean in 2016. Marine animals accidentally consuming plastic debris is a widespread problem because some debris resembles their food.

Here are more steps that you can make in reducing your plastic consumptions beyond bringing your own reusable bags to the grocery store. Elizabeth Segran, Ph.D. from *Fast Company* is suggesting some of these steps:

The kitchen: Stock up on reusable *Lunchskin* bags (starting at \$5), Abeege food wrap (\$15) and Pyrex glass food storage containers (\$5-\$55).

The bathroom: Buy your beauty products in bulk. *Alba Botanica*, *Avalon Organics*, *Alaffia*, and *Aveda* sell shampoo in large bottles which lasts for months.

The nursery: Invest in books and wood toys.

The closet: Buy investment pieces like wool, silk and cotton. They are relatively expensive but they tend to be more durable.

Source: <https://nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/09/news-jellyfish-plastic-cigarette-wrapper/>

<https://fastcompany.com/90312169/a-totally-achievable-relatively-painless-guide-to-cutting-plastic-out-of-your-life>



Facts and Finds



Music has a positive impact on mental health, as countless studies have shown. For many people, it can lower stress, improve moods and productivity, and enhance creativity.

But the jury is still out on whether music and work mix well.

The saying, "One man's meat is another man's poison" might apply when it comes to genres of music. Some people find an intellectual refuge in classical music, while others prefer electronic music. Pop lyrics might be your jam but an insufferable distraction for your co-worker.

"With the exception of those in fields like health care, law and finance, most employees would rather work in a fun, creative and collaborative environment," says John Feldman of Houston-based Insperity Recruiting Services. The problem is that "what may drive creativity and productivity in some may hinder it in others." Feldman says the best solution is probably encouraging music at work... safely confined to headphones.

As another saying goes, "There's no accounting for taste."

Source: *The Undercover Recruiter*, <http://theundercoverrecruiter.com/music-office-help-hindrance/>

Plenty of jobs for counselors, teachers and health care professionals

Looking through to the year 2026, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts where college graduates will find the most opportunities. Teachers

of all sorts, from elementary through post secondary, will find lots of openings, as will computer specialists and a number of health care professions. The 10 occupations with the most openings, along with their median annual earnings, are:

1. Lawyers (\$120,910)
2. Educational, guidance, school, and vocational counselors (\$56,310)
3. Health specialties teachers, postsecondary (\$97,370)
4. Health care social workers (\$56,200)
5. Mental health counselors (\$44,630)
6. Secondary school teachers (\$60,320)
7. Education administrators, elementary and secondary school (\$95,310)
8. Education teachers, postsecondary (\$64,780)
9. Physical therapists (\$87,930)
10. Instructional coordinators (\$64,450)



And cashiers, waiters and clerks

Workers without a college degree have opportunities too, of course.

Many of these jobs are in retail and food service. The ten non-college degree jobs with the most openings, along with their median annual salaries, are:



1. Combined food preparation and serving workers (\$21,250)
2. Retail salespersons (\$24,200)
3. Cashiers (\$22,430)
4. Waiters and waitresses (\$21,780)
5. Personal care aides (\$24,020)
6. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers (\$28,260)
7. Customer service representatives (\$33,750)
8. Office clerks (\$32,730)
9. Janitors and cleaners (\$26,110)
10. Stock clerks and order fillers (\$25,700)

Source: <https://careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Careers/careers-most-openings.aspx?persist=true&location=US&pagesize=50¤tpage=1&nodata=#a>

De-stress and simplify your life: eat the same lunch every day (as long as it's healthy!)



Love your homemade egg salad sandwich? You can have it everyday for lunch. In fact, according to Marion Nestle, a professor of nutrition and food studies at New York University and the author of several books about nutrition and the food industry, eating the same food for lunch everyday is a good thing. "If your daily lunch contains a variety of healthful foods," she says, "relax and enjoy it."

Eating the same thing everyday can simplify your decisions about your nutrition intake. It also makes your food shopping easier and cheaper. It can bring consistency to a chaotic schedule.

Source: *The People Who Eat the Same Meal Every Day* (<https://theatlantic.com/family/archive/2019/03/eating-the-same-thing-lunch-meal/584347/>)

FAFSA, there's an app for that!

Good news, you can now apply for financial aid in the same way as sharing snaps and stories – on an app. The U.S. Department of Education has now launched the myStudentAid mobile app to help first-time students apply for aid in the 2019-20 academic year.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is truly the “keys to the kingdom” of financial aid. It can open the door to federal Pell Grants, state grants, Stafford student loans, scholarships and work-study programs. Everyone – whether they consider themselves rich, poor, or in between – should plan to fill out a FAFSA application as part of applying to college.

Pell Grants: free money for college, really!

Every year, over 7,500 students get help with their education through Pell Grants. \$125 billion in grant aid is distributed across all federal student aid programs. Many receive Pell Grants of up to \$6,000 to finance tuition, books, living expenses and transportation. Best of all, these funds do not need to be repaid; they are a federal government subsidy to assist college students.

Don't be one of the millions of students who forgot to get in line! Or showed up too late! To qualify, you must demonstrate financial need and make sure you fill out the FAFSA. If you submit the form early, your chances increase for the best overall package of financial aid.

Asked about the new app, Mike Kantrowitz, a financial aid expert, said, “It was actually fun to complete. It makes completing the FAFSA much easier.” The app offers guidance along the way if you get stuck and has the same data protections as the online version.

Prefer the computer, or want to use both the app and the website?

No problem. You can fill in a FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov. Or, you can start on one platform and finish on another. Any way you do it, you will be sent a report on your eligibility for the Pell Grant and the amount you can expect to receive. Some states will not yet let you transfer your FAFSA information directly from the app, so the desktop version is still necessary. If you previously filed a FAFSA online, you must also file from your computer.

It is best to get the full story about everything for which you are eligible. Your best advocate will be Piedmont Technical College's financial aid advisor. Don't hesitate to consult with the experts!

Helpful FAFSA terms:

- **GRANTS** are gifts that do not need to be paid back. Grant decisions are based on family income, household size, reported assets, and the number of children in college. The most common is the federal Pell Grant.
- **LOANS** must be paid back to the lender, with interest. Loans mean debt. If you go this route, make sure to request just what you need, not the higher amounts that might be offered.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** are gifts that do not require repayment. They can be based on academics, hometowns, gender, ethnicity, or specific programs. Many states and localities are now offering “promise” scholarships based on academic standing. However, most of these also require the FAFSA. Additionally, colleges will generally have one application for all internal scholarships, and some will take into account student need from the FAFSA.
- **WORK STUDY** is a federally-financed aid award. FAFSA will help you qualify. Students are limited to 20 to 25 hours of work a week and have the opportunity to earn valuable work experience at their college.

PTC office of financial aid:

We strive to keep our tuition affordable. Learn about our tuition rates, then compare our cost to other institutions in South Carolina when you visit www.ptc.edu/cost.

'MACHINE TOOL 4.0' Evolves at Piedmont Tech

Economist Klaus Schwab in 2016 described the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" as a fusing of technologies, "blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres." Along this trajectory, the machine tool trade has evolved, and the latest revolution has brought a renaissance of sorts to the discipline that in recent years was considered a dying art.

"A lot of people don't realize that the machine trade is alive and thriving," said Phillip Calhoun, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) interim program director for machine tool technology. "A lot of companies we work with say their older workforce is starting to reach retirement age. It's now actually a growing trade," with an estimated 1 in 4 U.S. machinists preparing to retire.

The Modern Machinist

Even so, there are challenges to recruiting and retaining skilled machinists. Staying current with the tools that run the machines is a continual challenge. "The advancements in technology with the tooling, it's like light speed. It's revolutionized the machine trade," Calhoun said.

The machines generally have a long period of usefulness, with the tools being the variables in the longevity equation. It is the tools that give machining its versatility because tools can be

replaced or modified to perform an updated range of operations.

"There are machines that have been in service for 10-20 years and are still producing," Calhoun explained.

Machinists initially had their heyday during World War II. The work of machinists, including women, supported the production of more than 300,000 aircraft, 100,000 tanks, and 2 million firearms.

After the war, inventor John Parsons developed a numerical control method that linked a milling machine to a punch-card system. That evolved into today's computer numerical control (CNC) milling, which uses programmed code to communicate movement instructions to machines.

Fears that computer-run machines could displace workers have been mostly unfounded. The jobs are still there; they have just changed, requiring workers

skilled in programming the computers to operate the machines. Calhoun says PTC's Machine Tool Technology program, on average, enjoys a 96% graduate placement rate. "We are at 100% at this time," he said. "Everybody who has graduated from our program and wants to work is working."

Applied Knowledge

Stacy Gray is among those graduates happily working in the field. His route there was circuitous, however.

"I originally came to Piedmont Tech for the Gunsmithing program," said Gray, a veteran who came to PTC directly after leaving the Army. "There was a two-year waiting list back in 2015, but I realized that there is a fair amount of machining you do working with guns, and machine tool went hand-in-hand with that. So I thought I would get a jump on the gunsmithing side of things; I started out in the basic machine shop program and really liked it. After finishing my gunsmithing degree, I went back to finish my machine tool technology degree."

With two associate degrees, one in general technology with a concentration in gunsmithing and one in machine tool technology, Gray is working full time at Red Seal Measurement in Greenwood.

Calhoun looks forward to completion of the William H. "Billy" O'Dell Center for Manufacturing Excellence, which will house PTC industrial programs and should be fully operational by early 2021.

"With the construction of the O'Dell Center underway, we will be upgrading some equipment, and that will allow us to reach even farther into the future," Calhoun said.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the machining field is projected to grow by 14% by 2026.

"I urge anyone who is interested in the machining field to look at one of the Quickskills program certificates available in advanced manufacturing," Calhoun added. "This is a way for an individual to explore our program without making a long-term commitment and also to get something out of it that could take them to the next level in their profession or possibly be a lifeline to a new career." ■

For more information about PTC's Quickskills certificates, visit www.ptc.edu/quickskills.





VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

is About So Much More Than Cuddles

Working as a veterinary technician involves far more than the fun stuff like cuddling puppies and kittens. Most of Piedmont Technical College (PTC) Veterinary Technology Program Director Dr. Ruthie Buist's students enter the program understanding this. Others, not so much.

"I actually had a student say to me once, 'I didn't know there would be so much science!'" Buist said. "The biggest thing is teaching students about the hard stuff. We don't always get to play with the animals. That is a tough hurdle for a lot of people."

Indeed. Veterinary technology students are going to face required courses such as basic microbiology, veterinary parasitology, clinical pathology, laboratory animal medicine and advanced medical care. Their role is comparable to that of a nurse in the medical field. They need to know such things as how to draw blood from an anxious Labrador retriever's jugular vein, monitor vital signs during a Yorkie's delicate surgery, take x-rays of an injured Siamese cat, administer medication to a restless ferret, and much, much more.

Buist worked in private veterinary practice for about four years before joining the faculty at PTC in 2008. She has a degree in animal science from Clemson University and graduated from the University of Georgia Veterinary School. She has been around animals her entire life, having been raised on a Jersey dairy farm in Ninety Six, South Carolina.

"Of course, I loved animals from the time I was little," Buist explained. "Our dairy vet early on would let me ask questions and mentor me. From the time I was old enough, I worked in a clinic."

The PTC Veterinary Technology program is housed in a special wing of the college's Newberry County Campus that is fully equipped with classrooms, laboratory, surgery suite and kennel.



The Big Picture

The PTC Veterinary Technology program is housed in a special wing of the college's Newberry County Campus that is fully equipped with classrooms, laboratory, surgery suite and kennel. Students treat mostly small, non-farm animals from the Newberry County Animal Shelter, a program partner. To learn about caring for large animals such as cows and

horses, Buist takes her students out to visit rural farms.

"Animals are funny. Horses especially know if you are there to do something that's medical in nature. They can pick up clinical smells on your clothes. Anything like that, such as alcohol," she explained. "It has a very strong odor."

As the cost of veterinary care continues to rise, Buist believes access can be a problem, especially in rural America.

"Cost is a hardship for many," she said. "Veterinary insurance is becoming more and more common. We have empathy for every animal, but we are still

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

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in a business.” Accordingly, the associate degree in veterinary technology program requires a course on office management to introduce skills such as rudimentary bookkeeping and using computers.

Veterinary technology students are encouraged to include education of clients as part of the job, particularly when it comes to such topics as vaccinations, nutrition and sterilization.

“Every animal that you neuter or spay, it helps a lot,” Buist said. “Client education is part of our role.”

Buist said one of the most difficult subjects for students to learn about is euthanasia. Most choose veterinary technology as a profession because they harbor great compassion for animals, which is a good thing. But putting an animal to sleep can be alternately the kindest and most painful choice a pet owner makes. The veterinary technician is taught that clients will ask what they would do if it was their own pet, but the owner should make the decision. The technician should not sway the client.”

“From the first semester orientation, we talk about euthanasia and stages of grief, she said. “At least by the third semester, they have observed it, though that is optional.”

More than Hands-on

When students begin their time observing and assisting in actual veterinary clinics, their soft skills become very important. In fact, soft skills — proper workplace habits and behavior — are among the hardest to teach, according to Buist.

Prompt attendance and effective communication can be hard to instill. Once in the clinical setting, however, most step up.

“We are so hard on them,” she said. “They do so much more when they go into the clinics. I think they put their best foot forward when they go into the clinics.” ■

For more information about PTC’s Veterinary Technology program, visit www.ptc.edu/vet.



PROFILE

Elizabeth Stevens

Piedmont Tech Veterinary Technology Alum Lands Dream Job

Nine years after graduating from Piedmont Technical College (PTC) with an associate in veterinary technology, Elizabeth Stevens found herself back at her alma mater on the Newberry campus training current students to use a blood coagulation analyzer manufactured by the global company she now works for, IDEXX. It has turned out to be a dream job with a company she hopes to make a career with.

“It’s a very innovative company, and I have grown a lot educationally and business-wise,” she said. “It’s really a great company. ... I don’t foresee leaving any time soon. I might transition from my current role and go into leadership. The possibilities are endless.”

It has been a journey roughly a decade in the making. Right after completing the PTC program in 2010, Stevens started working at a private small animal veterinary practice in Irmo, which is near Columbia. She served as a technician there for about six years before opportunity knocked again, and she began interviewing with IDEXX, which provides diagnostic products and services to veterinary practices around the world.

In August 2016, she joined IDEXX as a Diagnostic Support Representative, Level 1, a role in which she calls on veterinary

practices in her territory to provide sales support, customer relations and equipment demonstrations. She recently was promoted to a Level 2 representative covering Columbia and Charleston, but her travels take her many other places.

“Sometimes I get pulled to other locations,” Stevens said, for such things as trade shows and conferences. “I have done a fair amount of traveling, including to the West Coast and Florida.”

Stevens believes future travel, perhaps internationally, is possible and says the lifestyle works for her. “It’s important to the company that we have a nice work/life balance,” she said.

While she sometimes misses the clinical and surgical work of veterinary practices, Stevens has found her happy place.

“I love the teaching aspect of it. Through my ability to educate others on better medicine, I am able to enrich the lives of pets and their people,” she said, adding, “My experiences at Piedmont Tech were pivotal in my getting the position that I have now.” ■

For more information about PTC’s Veterinary Technology program, visit www.ptc.edu/vet.

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MODERN APPRENTICESHIP

The Numbers Don't Lie

Noel Johnson is careful about numbers and budgeting. The conscientious 20-year-old is on track this fall to complete her associate degree in business administration, with a concentration in accounting. College is not an easy or inexpensive proposition, but Johnson has been smart about tuition and career planning.

"I am trying to pay for a lot of my stuff so my parents don't have to," Johnson said. "I pay my cell phone bill and for my gas. ... My parents have taught me to be independent over the years."

Attending Piedmont Technical College (PTC) has been a strategic move for the expense-conscious young woman. The college has the lowest tuition in the region and boldly confers upon graduates its Job-Ready Guarantee, vouching for the quality of its training and education programs. In addition, thanks to grants and financial aid, seven out of 10 PTC students actually attend tuition-free.

While at PTC, Johnson is holding down a part-time work-study job in her hometown of Greenwood as well as serving in a part-time paid internship role at WCTEL in Abbeville. A paid internship is similar to an apprenticeship; both provide on-the-job training. However, apprenticeships generally are less plentiful, last longer than basic internships, are linked to corresponding college coursework, and usually conclude with full-time employment.

PTC Business Instructor Suzy Murray wholeheartedly recommended Johnson for the WCTEL internship.

"Noel is just one of those students who is so far ahead in class work and persistence and work ethic," she said. "It was a no-brainer to recommend her when WCTEL said they were looking for somebody for an internship."

Human Resources Manager Marie Titus supervises Johnson at WCTEL. In Johnson's case, Titus sees the outgoing intern as a strong candidate for a full-time offer down the road. Titus understands the value of a dollar as well as the long-term return on investment internship and apprenticeship programs represent.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), employers on average receive \$1.47 for every dollar they invest in apprenticeship programs. But the dividends far transcend hard currency. While paid, apprentices generally work for less than full pay, saving the employer some cost initially. In the process, apprentices become immersed in the company's culture and invested in its mission, which builds loyalty. With the extra help on hand, existing



staff often experience higher morale and become more motivated.

"We're currently working with four Piedmont Tech students. It is a great opportunity to mentor these young folks. It is good for our community, and it's a win for us if we are able to keep them," Titus said. "It's not the intent when we do this to be able to hire. The intent is to give them the experiences." However it is definitely a two-way street insofar as benefits realized. And apprenticeships also help foster economic and workforce development in areas where they prosper.

"We truly value our partnership with Piedmont Tech. Over the past two years, we have worked very closely with the staff at Piedmont Tech and filled more than a dozen positions," said Jeff Wilson, CEO of WCTEL. "We are happy to invest in youth and help build up our workforce. What is good for our community is good for WCTEL. While the classroom provides concepts and skills, we can provide these interns the real-world applications. In addition, they come in and provide a fresh perspective from the outside looking in. It's also good for our employees

to have opportunities to mentor. We feel it's a win-win for everybody."

PTC currently partners with 38 companies on apprenticeships and continues to work toward forging new ones all the time. According to the DOL, 91% of apprentices end up working in their field of study. That kind of success rate is one reason why the college values such programs and works with Apprenticeship Carolina™, a division of the SC Technical College System, to establish them. Apprenticeship Carolina™ works to ensure that employers in the state have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create registered apprenticeship programs. The organization supports a running total of 32,089 apprentices in 1,023 registered programs across South Carolina.

Johnson's time with WCTEL, literally, has been life-changing. Before coming to WCTEL, she was certain she wanted a career strictly in accounting. Now she is considering several business-related options.

"Actually, because of this internship, I have decided to go into human resources. I want to get my

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PROFILE

Richie Stone

Alum Now Supervises Interns from His Alma Mater at WCTEL



Don't ask Richie Stone to limit his screen time. That's something he just cannot do. It's kind of an occupational hazard.

In his role as Network Services Technician and Group Leader at West Carolina Tel (WCTEL) in Abbeville, Stone oversees activities of the company's Network Operations Center (NOC), which employs a number of interns from Piedmont Technical College (PTC). The NOC is monitored 24/7 for any internet or TV channel issues.

"The NOC allows WCTEL/WCFIBER to be proactive and gives us the opportunity to resolve network issues before the customer even sees an issue," he said.

After graduating from PTC in 1993, Stone went to work at Milliken in Abbeville for nine years. He made the move to WCTEL in 2000. "I enjoy working with cutting-edge technology," he said. "Working at WCTEL is great. One of the biggest things I like is the family atmosphere that we have. As a service-oriented culture, it's the real deal."

"I love being able to give these guys and girls the opportunity to come in here and learn what they are learning. And they share their experience with us as well."

Stone has also enjoyed mentoring the students in his charge.

"I really enjoy it," he said. "I love being able to give these guys and girls the opportunity to come in here and learn what they are learning. And they share their experience with us as well. They do front-line tech support. They pick up on it pretty quick. I am proud of them."

During WCTEL's relationship with PTC, Stone says the quality of interns coming from the college has been consistently high, and they have hired several afterward.

"Our Tier 1 NOC relies on interns from PTC," he said. "These technicians come in with training from PTC, and we take those skills and build upon them."

Stone loves working at WCTEL and is willing to bet that interns do as well.

"There's nothing like coming to work," he said, "with a smile on your face and looking forward to the day." ■

MODERN APPRENTICESHIP

Continued from page 7

(Associate Professional in Human Resources) certification and later pursue a bachelor's degree," Johnson said. "Miss Marie (Titus) is amazing. She takes the time to explain to me not just how but why something is being done."

Titus has been extremely pleased with Johnson's performance and attention to detail. "I am thrilled that Noel is working with us now," she said. "She is a quick learner. I don't need to tell her anything twice. She takes notes. She takes initiative. I am a one-woman department, and she has been able to help me do so much."

Johnson's bright presence has not gone unnoticed by those in executive leadership, either.

"Noel is absolutely delightful to work with," Wilson said. "She has been very efficient, professional, a quick study, and accountable."

During her brief stint in human resources at WCTEL, Johnson already has learned a variety of new skills.

"When I first started, I helped launch an online employee portal," Johnson explained. "We have gone paperless with onboarding. I've also helped prepare for monthly board meetings and helped make travel arrangements for various team members as requested. ... My most memorable experience has been getting to sit in on employment interviews. I've learned what to listen for. It has been a really good experience."

Businesses nationwide are seeing great results with modern apprenticeships. The Washington DC-based research organization Urban Institute reports that 97% of employers/sponsors would recommend apprenticeship as a training model. Apprentices also like the results; nine out of 10 are employed immediately upon finishing their training and at higher salaries than entry-level workers from outside the company.

PTC's Murray said that one challenge to recruiting apprentices is finding candidates who have time to do it.

"The issue is that most of our students are already working," she said. "They are getting their degrees to advance from where they are or to change career fields. With us, it's a case of finding enough students to meet employer demands. ... And we have had tons of positive feedback from participating employers." ■

SC WINS: New Scholarship Helps Further Reduce Tuition Cost

Thanks to state and federal financial aid, local Promise programs, and a thriving Foundation scholarship program, 70% of students attending Piedmont Technical College (PTC) are able to attend tuition-free. Now, a new South Carolina scholarship is poised to make the cost of attending the college even more affordable.

The South Carolina General Assembly recently voted to launch the SC Workforce and Industrial Needs Scholarship (SC WINS)—a statewide program designed to address workforce shortages. The scholarship supplements Lottery Tuition Assistance to help further reduce tuition cost for eligible students.

The new program started awarding funds in Fall 2019.

"This new opportunity will make getting an education more affordable for our students," said Dr. Ray Brooks, PTC president. "SC WINS doesn't just remove a financial barrier. It's designed to grow the workforce in key business sectors in the state. Eligible students will pay less for tuition and build a skill set that will make them highly employable."

Students will be eligible to receive the SC WINS scholarship if they meet one of two criteria.

In one scenario, a student must be receiving Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA) and majoring in a critical workforce area. These areas include health care, computer and information technology, advanced manufacturing and construction.

In the other scenario, a student must be receiving LTA and meet the USDA income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced price meals.

Recipients will receive \$50 per credit hour, up to \$600 total per semester, after applying all other scholarships or grants. There is also a book allowance of up to \$300 per year if a student is enrolled in at least one course in a critical workforce area during the semester.

7 out of 10 Students Attend Tuition-Free

In addition, promise and community scholarship offerings continue to expand in the region. Students are already benefiting from the Abbeville Promise Scholarship, Greenwood Promise Scholarship, Laurens Future Scholarship, and the Charlie Foundation Scholarship, for Saluda County.

Equally important, the Piedmont Technical College Foundation awards scholarships to students each year. This academic year alone, the foundation awarded over 200 scholarships for a total of \$165,100 in academic assistance.



With all of these funding options, students can be confident that starting an education after high school can be affordable.

"We want everyone to know that they can go to college," said Brooks. "We are very thankful to the General Assembly for taking this step, and we continue to be grateful to all those in our community who support the needs of our students through scholarships." ■

For additional SC WINS eligibility information and a full list of programs, visit www.ptc.edu/win.



A New Generation of Truck Drivers

Some millennials may be as familiar with operating a rotary phone as they are with driving a manual transmission vehicle. After all, those things are so last century. But it is exactly the millennials (and now Gen Z'ers) who are needed in the coming years to keep vital economic supply lines moving, and that means providing ground transportation — trucking, if you will. A nationwide shortage of qualified truckers demands it.

Brandon Dendy is among those in-demand millennials. He is considering a career change by enrolling in Piedmont Technical College's Truck Driver Training program, a six-and-a-half-week course of in-depth classroom instruction and hands-on training to help graduates launch a logistics industry career.

"Right now, I'm working as a machinist at ZF Transmissions," Dendy said. "My father-in-law has a trucking company and has been trying to get me to come work for him for years. ... I had never even driven a stick-shift before this."

The 30-year-old married father of two also trained for his current position as a machinist at PTC, so coming back was a natural decision.

The Need for Truck Drivers

According to the American Trucking Association, the national shortage of truck drivers is quickly approaching 60,000. In South Carolina, where more than 80% of communities depend on trucks to stock shelves with food and other consumer goods, the problem is equally acute as older drivers retire and turnover rates steadily increase. The shortage has motivated companies to increase driver pay, add benefits and even offer signing bonuses.

Dendy is taking advantage of a partnership between PTC and the SC Workforce Development Board that designates the college lead agency and training provider for a grant project called "Ready to Roll," which was launched last year and has financed training for dozens of truck driver graduates to date.

After their initial seven hours of orientation and 50 hours of classroom instruction, PTC truck driver trainees get acquainted with the "Skills Pad," a training area off Quarry Road in a blacktop space next to Wilson Brothers Sand Co. There, amid orange cones forming narrow lanes, students practice basic maneuvers such as backing up and parking. Then it's time for field training, observation and behind-the-wheel training in one of PTC's two semi-trucks.

"During the first weeks of the course, I wasn't really comfortable. I didn't even know if I would be able to do it. There was so much I needed to learn," Dendy says. "But I was driving a stick in the second week of class. That was a confidence-booster."

A Well Trained Workforce

Dendy said it is very exciting to actually get rolling on South Carolina highways. One of PTC's trucks has a reconstructed sleeper cab that now provides observation seating. Before he'd had his chance behind the wheel, Dendy said he was a little apprehensive. The biggest challenges have been backing up and parallel parking.

"The hardest thing, when you are backing up, you can't really see where you are going. There are so many blind spots," he said. "You are completely dependent on the mirrors."

Of course, there is the ever-present issue of mastering 10 sensitive, seemingly elusive gears that must be manipulated in quick succession, to get an 8,000-pound truck rolling. Errors in shifting can leave

the truck precariously stalled in the middle of an intersection.

Truck driving instructor Jim Burton is a reassuring presence in the cab. A retired Air Force veteran, he at one time worked as an air traffic controller. His instructions to the student driver are calm and encouraging yet also instructive: "Break it down; let it roll." "Take your time. You're OK." "Sixth gear now." "Try to hold off the gas when you push the clutch in." "You have a tendency to ride the white line. Try to stay in the middle of your lane." "Don't let it roll back. Remember there's someone behind you." "OK, ... brake."

Dendy feels the instructors made all the difference.

"I think the instructors did a great job," he said. "Of course, everybody makes mistakes, but I think they catch mistakes before you even make them."

More than 80% of communities in South Carolina depend exclusively on trucks to transport goods, so the need for qualified drivers remains strong. In fact, demand is expected to grow by 14% through 2026. PTC is one of 13 technical colleges in the state that provide hands-on Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class A training. The program has been developed in collaboration with major logistics agencies in the region, and Ready-to-Roll program grant money is still available.

For more information, go to www.ptc.edu/cdl.

Where Do You Want to Go?

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

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

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

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



UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

University Studies Certificate

This certificate is designed to allow students to transfer to a senior institution after two semesters and a minimum of thirty (30) transferable credit hours.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 19 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/transfer.



AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge based economy.

Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

A.A.S., Major in Diversified Agriculture
Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology
Turfgrass Management Certificate
Landscape Management Certificate
Landscape Design and Installation Certificate
Greenhouse Management Certificate

South Carolina Mean Salaries
Farmer - \$79,070
Agricultural Technician - \$34,940
Nursery Operator - \$27,700



BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensable part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology
Office Technician Certificate

Business Administration

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

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

South Carolina Mean Salaries
Tax Preparer - \$41,000
Medical Transcriptionist - \$34,740





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

Cybersecurity Certificate

Certified IT Professional 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.

Precision Metrology Certificate

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



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.

Electronic Engineering Technology

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

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

Engineering Design Technology

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

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

Mechanical Engineering Technology

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

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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Electrical and Electronics Drafter - \$63,210

Electronic Engineering Technician - \$60,670

Mechanical Engineering Technician - \$58,790



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.

Automotive Technology

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

A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology

Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Building Construction Technology

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

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

Carpentry Certificate

Gunsmithing

A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Gunsmithing

Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate

Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology

Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology

Heating Fundamentals Certificate

Refrigeration Applications Certificate

HVACR Installers Certificate

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

Electrical Maintenance Technician Certificate

Welding

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

A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Welding

D.A.S., Major in Welding

Basic Welding Certificate

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Automotive Technician - \$40,040

Carpenter - \$44,490

HVAC Technician - \$45,240

Electronics Technician - \$60,670

CNC Machine Tool

Operator - \$43,220

Welder - \$43,960





HEALTH CARE

With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

Cardiovascular Technology

The Cardiovascular Technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.

A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology

Emergency Medical Technician

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a vital link in the health care chain. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are employed in areas such as emergency ambulances, private non-emergent transport services, clinics, and other allied health care settings.

**Emergency Medical Technician Certificate
Paramedic Certificate**

Medical Assisting

The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.

**A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Medical Assisting
D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting**

Nursing

The Nursing program will assist students in developing the intellectual, technical and professional competencies necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses or licensed practical nurses, depending on their program of study.

**A.A.S., Major in Nursing
D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing
LPN to ADN Nursing Transition Option**

Occupational Therapy Assistant

As only one of three two-year programs of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program is a great option for students seeking this in-demand training in the Upstate and Midlands.

A.A.S., Major in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Patient Care Technician

Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as Patient Care Technicians who are a part of the health care team.

**A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Patient Care Technician
Patient Care Technician Certificate**

Pharmacy Technology

Graduates of the pharmacy technology diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting.

**A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Pharmacy Technology
D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology**

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, RNs 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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Cardiovascular Technologist - \$58,850
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - \$40,890
Pharmacy Technician - \$31,530
Radiologic Technologist - \$53,890
Respiratory Therapist - \$55,990
Registered Nurse (RN) - \$64,940
Veterinary Technologist - \$31,630



PUBLIC SERVICE

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

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

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 Director's Certificate

Embalmer's Certificate

Human Services

The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, special needs 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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Police Officer - \$42,280
Preschool or Daycare Director - \$46,390
Preschool Teacher - \$28,940
Funeral Director - \$48,120
Human Services Assistant - \$31,660



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 Care.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science

D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

Source: May 2018, Occupational Outlook Handbook,
https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_sc.htm#21-0000

IT'S YOUR MOVE MAKE IT COUNT

Deciding on the right career or the best path to a bachelor's degree is an important decision. And we know you have questions.

Maybe you're paying for college out of your own pocket, and you're not quite sure how to cover the tuition and fees. Maybe you're ready to step out of your comfort zone to pursue the career you've always wanted, but you're unsure of the direction you should take. Whatever questions you have, **Piedmont Technical College can help you find the path to a successful future.**

So, don't let anything hold you back from following your dreams.

Get started today at makeitptc.com.

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) 938-1508

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

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