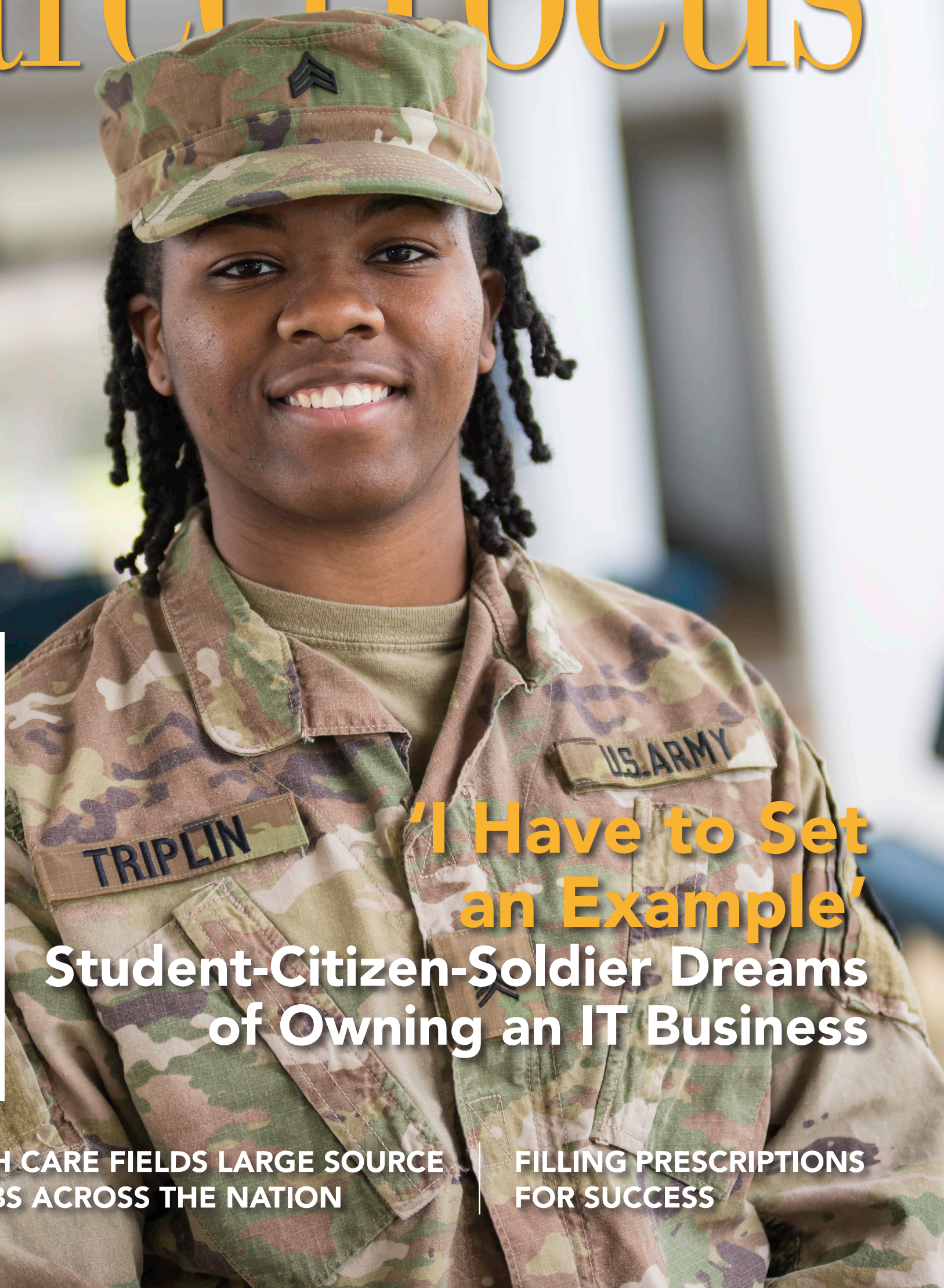


CareerFocus

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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'I Have to Set an Example' Student-Citizen-Soldier Dreams of Owning an IT Business

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**FILLING PRESCRIPTIONS
FOR SUCCESS**

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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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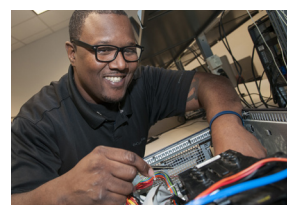


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Health Care Fields Large Source of Jobs Across the Nation



The need for health care professionals has never been higher. According to The Atlantic, health care last year became the nation's largest source for jobs for the first time in history. With demand expected to continue growing, median wages can be twice as much as those offered in other industries.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected that health care employment will continue to be the fastest-growing through 2026. So we know the jobs will be there. Will there be workers to fill them?

A recent article from cnbc.com singled out several of the highest-paying health care professions that require only an associate degree. Here are some that ranked in the top 11:

Cardiovascular Technician

With a median annual salary of \$57,380, cardiovascular technicians can afford a pretty sweet lifestyle. Cardiovascular technicians assist in diagnosing and treating diseases of the heart and blood vessels by operating cutting-edge diagnostic equipment. They compare cardiac findings to a standard to identify diseases that can then be treated.



Occupational Therapy Assistant

The median annual salary for occupational therapy assistants is \$69,890. Not too shabby. PTC's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program provides a great option for students seeking a career in occupational therapy. Offered at our Newberry Campus, the OTA curriculum prepares students to work closely with occupational therapists to help patients who are recuperating from brain trauma, surgery, disease, dementia or other challenges so they can regain or improve their daily living skills.

Radiologic Technologist

Radiologic technologists in South Carolina earn a median annual wage of about \$49,960. The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography profession. Radiographers use state-of-the-art equipment to produce diagnostic medical images in a variety of health care settings. This requires an application of combined knowledge in anatomy, physics, clinical procedures, imaging techniques and patient care.

Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapists in South Carolina earn a median salary of \$53,730 but may earn as much as \$65,040 annually. The registered respiratory therapist is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies. Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals. Others

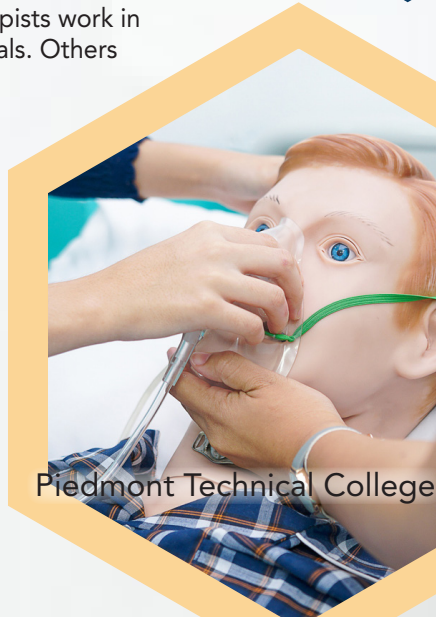


may work in nursing care facilities or travel to patients' homes.



Nursing Professions

Every journey begins with a single step. Our Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program qualifies graduates for further nursing education that can lead to nurse manager and nurse practitioner career roles. Approved by the SC Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the PTC program prepares graduates to take the licensing examination to become a registered nurse. After that, they can transfer to a bachelor's degree program at a four-year university to further their education and take their careers as far as they might imagine. ■



Strengthening Partnerships

College Uses Self Regional Donation to Expand Nursing Program

On the heels of a national report projecting South Carolina will have one of the most serious nursing shortages in the country in the next decade, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) is using the generous \$170,000 gift it received late last year from the Self Regional Healthcare Foundation to support the graduation of more students into the pipeline of qualified nurses needed by area health care facilities. If all goes according to plan, by this summer, transition nursing courses will be offered not only at the Greenwood Campus but on the college's Laurens Campus as well.

"It's an extension of our transition nursing program," explained Tara B. Gonce, PTC's dean of health care. "Our curriculum stays the same. This just opens up an additional route for those students to be able to transition in."

More Than In Demand

According to a recent report from registerednursing.org, the need nationally for registered nurses (RNs) is projected to spiral by 28.4 percent, to 3.6 million, by 2030. The organization's recent report projected South Carolina to have the 4th highest RN shortfall, with an estimated 10,400 RN positions going unfilled. Anticipated shortages are escalating among licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants as well.

"Self Regional is firmly committed to addressing the growing shortage of nurses and working with partners like Piedmont Technical College to educate local talent and ensure that our community's health care needs are met well into the future," said Ken Coffey, executive director of Self Regional Healthcare Foundation.

Many students who have an interest in nursing careers are finding that the programs available have maxed out and cannot take any more students, usually because they lack enough qualified faculty to meet the demand. To date, PTC has hired one additional faculty member

with the designated funds and is in the process of hiring a second.

"The Laurens Campus has everything the Greenwood Campus has, including simulation labs with mannequins, nursing lab and OB-Pediatric lab, classrooms and computer labs," Gonce said. "We have been preparing for this and trying to mirror what we have here (in Greenwood). It has been a goal. We know based on guidelines of our national accrediting agency that this is needed and that we needed more faculty. The Self Foundation donation came at the perfect time to marry these two things together. Our goal became reality."

The Ladder to Success

Gonce believes the ideal, most seamless route to becoming an RN can be achieved in three phases. For example, high school students can opt for dual enrollment and earn a health care certificate as well as a strong chance for acceptance into PTC's competitive-entry programs. Next, they can earn their associate degree in nursing (ADN) in two years at PTC's Greenwood or Laurens campus. Then they can enroll in the ADN to BSN program at Lander University.

"Once dual enrollment students have their certification, they are program-ready. If I were a high school student now, this is the route I would take. It's also the most financially sound route, just to not have student loans," she said. "Once students get their

ADN, many hospitals will offer tuition reimbursement if they want to go back and get their BSN."

A key objective of the program expansion is to place PTC nursing graduates in jobs at local health care facilities like Self Regional Healthcare. Gonce said the college plans to open registration for transition nursing courses at the Laurens Campus in mid-April, and students could begin attending classes this summer.

"Self Regional Healthcare has always worked very closely with us," Gonce said. "They offer a large majority of our clinical spots for our students. Without them, this would not have been possible. The donation they made gave us the push to be able to start the process. ... We are hoping the financial contribution they gave will continue on." ■



Filling Prescriptions for Success



Clay Sprouse's students recently begged for more than their allotted time in the Piedmont Technical College (PTC) pharmacy technology laboratory. They actually wanted to stay after hours. That was a first.

"My students stayed after lab class because they wanted to have more practice," Sprouse said. "I have never had that happen before. When you get to that point of the day when it's their time — it's voluntary time — I can't say no."

The dedicated pharmacy tech lab at PTC has been transformed this year. Just after the program's reaccreditation, PTC invested in recommended new equipment and upgrades, including a simulated drive-up window, an automated dispensing cabinet, a new medication cart, an incubator for fingertip testing and new prescription processing software.

"The lab needs to look and feel like a real working pharmacy. We have essentially a completely different lab from what we had before," Sprouse said. "We have all the bells and whistles you would find in any hospital pharmacy."

While in the PTC lab, technicians are required to wear uniforms, are assigned to certain sections of the lab, and given tasks just as they would be assigned on the job. Sprouse is well-acquainted with pharmacy operations, having worked for CVS for more than 10 years.

With extensive experience training others, he felt that teaching could be a natural fit. He now holds a master's in education with an emphasis on curriculum instruction.

A 'Goofball' With the Right Stuff

Sprouse is passionately committed to his job. He says the main challenge is to keep the material fresh. With the obvious rapport he has with his students, he is succeeding in that endeavor. They clearly respond well to Sprouse's playful energy and contagious enthusiasm.

"The class is a lot of fun," said student Jordan Hampton. "Clay is a goofball, but he hits all the major topics and prepares us for what we will experience in the clinical setting."

Hampton's favorite part of the pharmacy tech program is working in the lab. "To go into the lab and see hands-on how it's actually done, that cements the information in my head," she said.

"I love teaching," Sprouse says. "After doing this for seven years, I am guessing that I have graduated about 100 students. With a lot of them, I can see an immediate change in their lives. When they graduate and get that job, when they are finding a home in the pharmacy world, I know I have made a difference."

Sprouse says the pharmacy world has changed a lot since he started as a technician in college. He is determined that his students will be prepared. In hospital-

based pharmacies, for example, pharmacy technicians are assuming more responsibility, including medication reconciliation and meeting patients upon admission to log their medications and doses (essentially take a patient history). It's a critical role because an estimated 33 percent of readmits to the hospital are caused by some medication event.

"If (hospital) pharmacists are out on the floor doing exit interviews,





who is picking up the slack?" Sprouse asked. The pharmacy technicians. In retail pharmacies, pharmacists are busier counseling patients. Again, the pharmacy technician increasingly provides more support.

With the exception of narcotics, some 90 percent of prescriptions today are "e-scribed" (electronically submitted). This practice has greatly enhanced accuracy and safety. There also are measures in place to identify fraud or dangerous drug-seeking behaviors. "We need to train our students to identify the red flags," he said. "We have to be on our toes."

Over the years, Sprouse has nurtured relationships with pharmacy employers in the region. They often turn to PTC when they are searching for candidates to fill their technician positions. As the profession continues to evolve, Sprouse is confident that PTC can meet the need.

"Pharmacy technology is a living, breathing thing," he said. "Because of some of the new tools we have to work with, I feel like it's given me new life in the classroom to do an even better job of conveying to students what they will see out in the real world."

For more information about the Pharmacy Technology program at PTC, visit www.ptc.edu/pharmacy. ■



PROFILE

Michala Barnum Graduate in Program to Study Pharmaceutical Pricing

Greenwood native Michala Barnum was able to save a lot of Starbucks money while attending pharmacy tech classes at Piedmont Technical College thanks to Instructor and Program Director Clay Sprouse.

"In the morning, if you have an 8 a.m. class, you don't need to get coffee before you go to class," she quipped. "He will keep you awake and entertained in class. He has so many stories and makes everything relatable to students."

Barnum not only stayed awake; she excelled. Now the PTC graduate is going places. Like the University of South Carolina School of Pharmacy in Columbia, where she is working on a bachelor's degree. Her focus is on pharmacological economics, which involves setting prices for medications — how much consumers are charged and what insurers will pay.

After some rough patches in high school, Barnum at 17 earned a certified nursing assistant license through Greenwood High School's career center. That sparked her interest in health care.

"I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field," she said. "It turns out that pharmacy was absolutely perfect for what I was looking for."

Sprouse was impressed by Barnum from the first day in class.

"She was so good that I ended up inviting her to be on our advisory board," he said. It's a role she still enjoys.

While at PTC, Barnum learned both clinical skills and soft skills.

"One of the skills I carry most from Piedmont Tech is time management. It really focused me on how to juggle work, school, being a Presidential Ambassador," she said.

"Ultimately I would like to work for a drug company pricing medications."

And she'll likely keep purchasing her coffee over the counter. ■



A Possible Cure for 'White Coat Syndrome'



Yes. "White coat syndrome" is a real thing. It's when an otherwise non-hypertensive patient's blood pressure spikes at the doctor's office, perhaps as a result of anxiety associated with a clinical setting. The same could be said of first-time students who want to major in a health care field but are overwhelmed by the choices. Not to worry. Piedmont Technical College (PTC) has come up with a treatment for that.

Because many beginning students may have only a general notion of majoring in a health care field but aren't quite sure exactly what concentration to focus on, PTC last year created its new customized advising center for health care majors — the CARE Planning Center. There, at a visible, centralized location on campus, students can develop and follow their CAREplan.

Students often select health care-related majors based on limited or inaccurate information. Research suggests that developing streamlined pathways with individualized degree plans helps students proceed toward their goals or get back on track if they lose their way.

CAREplan is the brainchild of the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Team. As part of PTC's reaffirmation process, the QEP Team was formed with the objective of serving these students by providing customized advising on health care and nursing careers as

students take their initial steps toward a degree, diploma or certificate in a specific health care-related field.

The Power of Personal Engagement

The team felt strongly that the initiative should have a robust personal engagement component that ensures students fully understand their program of study and keeps them on track so they do not inadvertently delay their progress and prospects for success.

The new program was first introduced with a grand opening in the fall of 2018 on the Greenwood Campus. It provides an environment where pre-program students in limited enrollment health care and nursing majors can actively participate in the advising process to develop relationships, behaviors and skills that lead to student success. Together, the advisor and student develop an individually tailored, guided pathway to graduation. Those who are tentative about their concentration take a health care careers course early on to better understand the field. Then they work continually throughout their time at PTC with their CAREplan advisors to ensure that their education plan and career goals remain compatible.

The employment of faculty and staff as advisors offers the program an "immersion advising" benefit because the advisors already are actively teaching and working firsthand within the departments

being considered. These advisors can provide the best, most up-to-date information and guidance for students making critical decisions about their health care career path. They help ensure that students fully understand the demands and requirements of the programs they choose. CAREplan advisors individually monitor their students toward program readiness. If additional assistance is warranted, it is provided through a case management process.

Empowering Success

Ideally, all health care and nursing students will have a concrete Guided Pathway plan in place before the end of their first semester. One of the QEP team's important goals was to facilitate students in making any changes in their major earlier, before they were well into their first year of study. They can stay on the same generalized health care path, taking courses common to all health majors for as long as they can, until they need to step off into more specialized coursework.

The CAREplan enables students to bypass unnecessary setbacks and delays on the path to their degrees. Such benefits are not limited to the Greenwood Campus. The college has plans to expand the program to offer specialized advising at other campuses. ■



PROFILE

Sergeant Mesha Triplin

'I Have to Set an Example' Student-Citizen-Soldier Dreams of Owning an IT Business

PTC's Military Concierge

His title is Veterans Services Coordinator, but Ryan Shelton-Benson really acts as a full-service concierge for veterans or active duty military. He works diligently to customize his efforts to the needs of each individual.

"The most asked question I get is how to use the GI Bill," he said. "The biggest thing is just directing them. They don't really understand the system or know what the GI Bill covers. My job is to listen to their situation and find out the resources that can help them. I try to make it as user-friendly as possible for them."

Applying for college alone can be intimidating. Add to that the process of applying for veterans' benefits and scholarships, and it becomes outright daunting. Shelton-Benson gets it. "It took me nearly a year to understand the system myself," he said.

Shelton-Benson helps students from start to finish, from filling out their FAFSA form, applying for the GI Bill and finding available scholarships. If a student needs additional services such as mental health counseling, vocational rehabilitation or even food assistance, Shelton-Benson is prepared to make a referral.

"I am their point of contact," he said. "They can come to one person for everything." ■

Army National Guard (ARNG) Sergeant Mesha Triplin is understandably confident. Now attending Piedmont Technical College (PTC) majoring in computer technology, programming concentration, Triplin already is earning money and using her skills on the job a good year before receiving her associate degree. Through her connections at PTC, the ambitious student landed an eight-month paying Information Technology (IT) gig at Self Regional Healthcare.



"At Self, I was able to incorporate everything I learned in class in the real world," she said.

Those technical skills also served her well last year when she completed a nine-month deployment to Poland, where she served as a satellite operator.

"In Poland, we were more welcomed than I thought we'd be. ... I also did some traveling," Triplin said, spending time in Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany.

Deployment comes with its challenges, and Triplin said that being away from her family for a long period of time is the hardest part. A Greenwood resident since her family moved here in the second grade, Triplin also missed the warmer climate of the southern United States.

"I never adjusted to the cold in Poland," she said. "But during a deployment, once you start doing things and going on missions and stuff, time starts to fly by."

Triplin's military journey began about five years ago when, as a student in her first semester at PTC, she was introduced to a recruiter at the college's annual spring job fair. Soon after, she enlisted in the ARNG, which is a branch of the military comprised of citizens who train part-time near their homes until they are needed for active deployment.

"I drill one weekend a month and attend an annual two-week training, usually in the summer," she said.

To pay for school, Triplin receives a monthly stipend from the VA, as well as funding from the National Guard College Assistance Program and Pell Grant. "I would never be able to pay for school myself," she said.

Although she looks forward to more deployments, Triplin does not currently aspire to make a full-time career in the Army. That's because she believes she can make more money with the degree she's earning in the civilian sector, perhaps even owning her own IT business. Still, as she continues to advance in the ARNG, Triplin understands the need to step up and be a leader.

"I have four siblings, so I have to set an example," she said. "Now with my E-5, I have to step out of my comfort zone. I need to lead." ■

Educators Describe Funeral Services as 'Ministry'

Today's funeral director must juggle myriad personalities, expectations, costs, logistics and special requests as they execute their responsibilities associated with honoring the memory of a loved one. Serving families with grace and empathy is at the core of funeral services education at Piedmont Technical College (PTC).

"Funeral Services is a ministry," said Dedrick Gantt, funeral service education instructor at PTC. "We are helping people through their most difficult times. They come to us for guidance, so the grieving process can start for them."

In the beginning, after the loss of a loved one, absolute discretion and patience are key. Family members usually are emotional and completely overwhelmed. "They can't process much because they are trying to do so much at one time," said David Martin, PTC funeral services program director. Graduates need a wide variety of skills.

Martin noted the funeral services curriculum is split pretty evenly between practical medical and rudimentary

business courses. Required core subjects for an associate degree include anatomy and physiology, microbiology/pathology and principles of embalming as well as funeral counseling and funeral service regulatory compliance, management and directing. The program provides the foundation for graduates to obtain state licensure as both a funeral director and an embalmer.

Both Gantt and Martin are funeral directors themselves and speak from a collective depth of experience. Perhaps the two most important lessons in funeral services, Martin said, are to demonstrate respect for the dead and to apply the Golden Rule.

"If you apply the Golden Rule in anything you do, you will be right 99.9

percent of the time," he said. "I always tell students that a funeral brings out the very best in people and the very worst in people. They can have a short fuse or come unraveled. You have to have a thick skin because they are sometimes angry at the world. You must maintain calm."

It cannot be stated often enough that funerals are for the living. Whether they are solemn affairs or happy celebrations of life depends on what the families want. They are opportunities for people to acknowledge and accept that someone has died, to say goodbye.

'They Felt Like My Children'

Before Julie Pendleton walked across the stage to receive her associate degree in funeral services this past December, she undoubtedly fussed to straighten caps and smooth robes of her fellow graduates, most of whom are the age of her own children.

"I'm 52. They felt like my children," Pendleton said. "I wanted them all to finish well. And I have kept in contact with them."

Pendleton had been working in an administrative capacity for the same funeral home for 28 years before she decided to go back to school at Piedmont Tech and get her funeral director and embalmer's license. That goal necessitated the mother of three to complete an apprenticeship.

In South Carolina, funeral directors are required to complete a two-year apprenticeship. Pendleton completed her apprenticeship at a mighty familiar place — Hatcher Funeral Home in Graniteville — where she already had worked for nearly three decades.

Now licensed, Pendleton directs funerals and performs embalming at Hatcher, but she still also does so much more.

"We are a small family business," she said. "Everyone pitches in and does what is needed."

Pendleton is extremely appreciative of the training she received at Piedmont Tech.

"I feel my preparation at PTC was good by far. The faculty were all tremendous. The information they





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“Funeral Services is a ministry. We are helping people through their most difficult times. They come to us for guidance, so the grieving process can start for them.”

Dedrick Gantt, funeral service education instructor at PTC

gave us was information we needed,” she said. “I believe the more streamlined the education is, and the fact that it’s taught by people who were actually funeral directors themselves, that is the best that you can get.”

A key takeaway from Mr. Martin, she added, was his advice to find her own way of dealing with families because everyone is different. He told her if she found her style and personal niche in helping customers during a difficult time, she would do well in the funeral business.

Without question, families preparing to lay a loved one to eternal rest are overwhelmed and stressed. Their recall of the experience becomes a kind of blur.

“They can’t remember everything, but it’s not the family’s job to remember anything. It’s our job to fit it all together and remember it for them.”

For more information about Piedmont Tech’s Funeral Service Education Program, visit www.ptc.edu/funeralservice. ■

PROFILE

Cody Anderson

Alumnus Describes Career as ‘Final Event Specialist’



A typical single guy in his early 30s, Cody Anderson sometimes attends social events and parties where he might meet a potential romantic interest. Soon comes the inevitable question: “What do you do?”

“I say that I am a ‘final event specialist.’ But then they always ask, what is that? And I explain that I own and operate a funeral home,” the Aiken native noted.

Anderson is proud of his profession and has worked hard to get where he is today. Last year, the Piedmont Tech alumnus purchased the George Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Aiken, where he has worked as a funeral director since 2014. He was inspired to enter the funeral services business after attending the 2008 funeral of his beloved great-grandmother, Ruby Lee Beck.

“My great-grandmother had a big part in my upbringing,” Anderson explained. “She was a very southern, genteel lady. ... I was really inspired by the way the funeral home handled everything. They had so much compassion.” He could not know at the time that he would later work at that same funeral home — the Hatcher Funeral Home in Graniteville — as an intern and apprentice.

In 2009, Anderson enrolled in the Funeral Services program at PTC.

“I am very grateful for my educational

experience at Piedmont Tech, because it really equipped me to take it from an apprenticeship to funeral directorship to manager role and eventually to owner of my own funeral home,” he said.

Anderson says the facilities at PTC — from the embalming lab to the crematory — are top-notch, and he uses the practical knowledge he gained on the job every day,

“I once had an equestrian who died, and that service was held in a riding arena. We also recently conducted our first ‘green’ funeral using a biodegradable shroud for burial,” he said.

“You have to have all the options that people may want.” ■

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“My great-grandmother had a big part in my upbringing. She was a very southern, genteel lady.... I was really inspired by the way the funeral home handled everything. They had so much compassion.”

Demand for Accountants Continues to Climb

A growing economy means a growing need for accountants and auditors.

That's according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which predicts the employment of accountants and auditors will increase 13 percent from 2016 to 2026 in South Carolina. This increase is faster than the national average of 10 percent and faster than the average for all occupations.

The employment of accountants is closely tied to the health of the overall economy. As the economy improves, more workers are needed to prepare and examine financial records.

In addition to ensuring that financial records are accurate and that taxes are paid properly and on time, accountants and auditors also assess financial operations to help organizations and entrepreneurs run efficiently. Demand has outpaced supply in recent years.



Accountants and Auditors in SC

2016 Median Pay
\$53,650 per year
\$25.80 per hour

The Bureau shows that approximately 1.4 million auditing and accounting jobs were available in the U.S. as of the end of 2016, the most recent year for which data is available. The median pay in South Carolina was \$25.80 per hour, or about \$53,650 per year.

Securing those jobs, however, takes some effort. Employers typically require prospective employees to have some form of training in accounting or a related field. An associate degree makes a candidate more marketable.

Accounting is one of three areas of concentration Piedmont Technical College offers as a part of an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Administration. Classes are available that will transfer toward a four-year degree.

The courses prepare students for employment as accounting clerks, bookkeepers and other entry-level positions. Accounting clerks work in such areas as billing, payroll and accounts payable or accounts receivable. Bookkeepers maintain financial records and perform other general accounting duties.

Students who successfully complete the accounting program are able to perform all steps in the accounting cycle for business entities, compute and record amounts arising from transactions unique to partnerships or corporations, analyze financial statements, recognize potential problem areas and suggest appropriate actions to alleviate or eliminate those concerns.

They can also prepare a variety of tax forms; record cost accounting transactions and reflect the effect of those transactions in financial statements; prepare financial forecasts, cash budgets, production budgets and subsequent variance reports; demonstrate proper use of accounting software and apply basic economic principles to the business decision-making process. ■

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of accountants and auditors will increase 13 percent from 2016 to 2026 in South Carolina.



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 - \$73,940
Agricultural Technician - \$34,360
Nursery Operator - \$27,290



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 - \$34,260
Medical Transcriptionist - \$34,580





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 - \$63,070

Electronic Engineering

Technician - \$59,480

Mechanical Engineering

Technician - \$53,740



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 - \$38,810

Carpenter - \$40,970

HVAC Technician - \$42,620

Electronics Technician - \$59,480

CNC Machine Tool

Operator - \$41,800

Welder - \$43,310





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

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

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, 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

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Cardiovascular Technologist

- \$56,630

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

- \$40,390

Pharmacy Technician - \$30,360

Radiologic Technologist - \$52,170

Respiratory Therapist - \$55,780

Registered Nurse (RN) - \$63,630

Veterinary Technologist - \$30,930



HEALTH CARE

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.

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 - \$42,330

Preschool or Daycare

Director - \$47,280

Preschool Teacher - \$27,840

Funeral Director - \$47,510

Human Services Assistant - \$30,860



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

Source: https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_sc.htm

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
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663 Medical Ridge Road
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(864) 938-1508

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

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1922 Wilson Road
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Saluda, South Carolina
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