Where Are the Good Jobs?
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From Concept to Creation
Engineering Technology students are prepared for rewarding careers.

Designing a Bright Future
PTC’s Commercial Art program teaches the fundamentals of creative careers.

Attitude is Everything
How to recognize your value.

Piedmont Technical College
620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, SC 29646

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
With college tuition heading toward the stratosphere this year, you might well be wondering whether a degree is still a good investment, especially if you’re facing the prospect of going into debt to pay the tab…. Associate’s degrees are a slam dunk. These two-year degrees seem to result in a massive payback, compared to their relatively low cost, for a high school graduate.

—MSN Guide to Saving for College

### Cutting the Cost of College

Blame it on the recession—family budgets are tight; federal and state dollars are in short supply; and private donations are down. Yet a college education is still the best path to a good job. So more colleges are coming up with innovative ways to get students the education they need at a lower cost. Some new and old cost cutting strategies are:

- **Work colleges**—It’s an old idea that’s attracting new attention; some colleges keep expenses down by requiring students to work in exchange for room and board or tuition.

- **No frills**—If you could get a first-class education without the fancy dorm, landscaped campus or posh amenities, would you take it? Some colleges have opened no-frills campuses where students pay lower tuition rates than they would at an upscale campus.

- **Community college**—Community colleges’ two-year transfer programs are attracting more students not just because of their low cost but because of their high quality, innovative programs. Maybe that’s why enrollments have sharply increased since the recession hit.

- **Online classes**—For students who are motivated and prepared, online classes can be a time and money saver. While for-profit schools are more high profile, many public and non-profit colleges offer online learning as well. PTC offers a wide variety of online classes—and some programs are offered completely online.

Read “Different Paths to a College Degree” in the September 2009 “Solving the College Crisis” issue of U.S. News and World Report.

### Live (and Work) Happily ever After

Work life and home life aren’t as separate as you might think.

If you’re happy in your job, you’re probably happy in your marriage too. That’s one finding of The Early Marriage Project which has been studying what makes marriages work—or not work—since the mid 1980s under the direction of Teri Orbuch, Ph.D.

For the sake of a healthy marriage, Orbuch recommends that couples regularly talk about their work day and find effective ways to relieve the stress of the workplace.

Most importantly, the study finds that spending your workday at challenging, rewarding activities contributes enormously to overall happiness and makes you a happier spouse.

“Workers who are fulfilled and stimulated during the workday tend to be happier individuals,” Orbuch concludes.


### From Community College to Ph.D.

Nearly 1 in 5 Americans who earned doctorates in 2008 attended community college at some point.

For some groups, the proportion was even higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
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### Do What You Love

In his new book, *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* best-selling author Daniel Pink explains that money really doesn’t motivate people to do their best work.

While we expect to be paid fairly for our work, it’s not cash that drives us to excel. What most of us really want from our jobs is interesting work, and the freedom to explore, innovate and master our profession. We’d also like to get a little recognition for a job well done.

Although that may go against everything that we know about the workplace today, Pink explains that curiosity, inspiration and the desire to have a little fun with our work can provide more of an incentive than a big paycheck.

Drawing on research into human motivation, Pink concludes, “The secret to high performance and satisfaction—at work, at school, and at home is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world.”

CF
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Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (864) 941-8369. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864)941-8541.

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Institutional Mission
Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College and Comprehensive Education System, is a public comprehensive two-year post-secondary 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 enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,500 credit students. 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; developmental education programs; student development programs; providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed Continuing Education programs provide training for business and industry.

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Where Are the Good Jobs?
Many fast-growing careers require two years or less of education

Despite the storm clouds of bad news about jobs lately, there are a few sunny spots. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics list of the top 50 fastest-growing careers includes everything from biomedical engineers to tree trimmers. Some of these jobs pay big wages and require advanced degrees while others require no training and pay very little.

But right in the middle are many jobs that pay good wages and require two years or less of education. Registered nurses, interior designers and commercial pilots are just a few examples. And although it’s still true that jobs in healthcare, education and computer technology dominate the top 50, there are also some surprising fast-growing careers that haven’t received as much attention.

For our list, we cherry-picked some of the fastest-growing jobs that require an associate degree, certificate or diploma. Every one of these jobs offers the potential to earn $40,000 or more a year and is expected to grow much faster than average over the next ten years, and you can get training for all of them right in your backyard at Piedmont Technical College.

Veterinary Technologist
36 percent growth
Annual Earnings Range: $20,200 - $43,100
Work: Veterinary technicians play a critical role in animal health. They work in areas like clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, and many other areas.
Education: Associate Degree

Surgical Technologist
25 percent growth
Annual Earnings Range: $27,900 - $55,600
Work: Surgical technologists assist in operations. They may help set up operating rooms, prepare and transport patients for surgery and assist with other tasks related to surgery.
Education: Diploma Program

Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer
28 percent growth
Annual Earnings Range: $25,800 - $65,600
Work: HVACR technicians install and repair heating, cooling and refrigeration systems in homes and commercial and industrial buildings.
Education: Certificate or Associate Degree

Cardiovascular Technologist
24 percent growth
Annual Earnings Range: $25,900 - $76,200
Work: Conduct tests on pulmonary or cardiovascular systems of patients for diagnostic purposes.
Education: Associate Degree

Registered Nurse
22 percent growth
Annual Earnings Range: $44,000 - $93,700
Work: Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
Education: Associate Degree

Respiratory Therapist
21 percent growth
Annual Earnings Range: $39,000 - $71,900
Work: Assess, treat and care for patients with breathing disorders. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.
Education: Associate Degree
Every one of these jobs offers the potential to earn $40,000 or more a year and is expected to grow much faster than average over the next ten years, and you can get training for all of them right in your backyard at Piedmont Technical College.
From Concept to Creation
Engineering Technology students are prepared for rewarding careers

From Apple’s iPad to the latest innovations in energy efficient transportation, we hear about how new technology continues to change the way we live every day. If you’re fascinated by how big an impact technology has on our lives, and you enjoy a hands-on approach to problem-solving, a career in engineering technology might be right for you.

Sandy Warner, department head of PTC’s Engineering Technology program, explains that engineering is at the heart of every facet of modern life. Engineers develop the concepts for solving problems—such as creating more energy efficient cars—and work to improve existing technology. “And all of those concepts have to be put on paper and designed to come to fruition,” Warner says. “That’s what engineering technicians do—they take an engineer’s concepts and make them a reality.”

A Rewarding Career in a High-Demand Field
Piedmont Tech’s Engineering Technology program offers real-world training that will teach you the practicalities of engineering rather than pure concepts or theories. Engineering technology students acquire hands-on technical skills that enable them to solve production and system implementation problems and help them explain solutions.

For Todd Dickson, a recent graduate now employed at Capaugel as a CAD detailer, this focus on practicality has paid off. He says, “For anyone who’s not sure what to do about college, Piedmont Tech and the Engineering department is the way to go.” Dickson landed his position as the result of a semester-long internship that was part of his senior engineering graphics technology project. “Not only are there a lot of job opportunities after completing this degree, but in the meantime, while in school, there will never be a time when help isn’t just a question away,” he said.

The PTC Engineering Technology program has produced graduates whose skills and abilities have helped them obtain excellent jobs and pursue advanced degrees for decades. Careers that require a high degree of technical expertise tend to be well-paying, Warner says, and that’s true for engineering technology. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for technicians in this field is $54,800. She says that although most engineering technology graduates go to work in advanced manufacturing—an area that’s been identified as a high growth industry for the United States—they’re qualified to work in a wide variety of fields, including civil and architectural engineering, construction, and many more.

“Our graduates are really in demand in any field that requires an engineering support function, and every aspect of modern life involves engineering to one degree or another,” says Warner, “so there’s a lot of opportunity out there.”

Hands-on Training and Personal Instruction
Each of the four majors in the program—Electronic Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Engineering Graphics Technology, and General Engineering Technology—is focused on the needs of employers, so graduates can be sure they’ll be well prepared to enter the job market in their chosen fields.

Warner and her fellow instructors work diligently to make sure students in the program are getting college credit at PTC while they’re still in high school, free of charge.

Bachelor’s Degree Pathways
University of South Carolina, Columbia
PTC offers Mechanical and Electrical Engineering transfer certificates that are designed to facilitate the transfer of PTC students into the USC Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering programs. These courses are the equivalent of the first year of USC’s electrical engineering or mechanical engineering B.S. program.

South Carolina State University
This comprehensive transfer program allows students who complete their Associate in Applied Science degree in either MET or EET at PTC to transfer their courses into SCSU’s Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology (BSEET) degree or the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology (BSMET) degree programs. All course work is completed at PTC’s Greenwood campus.

University of South Carolina, Upstate
PTC students who earn an Engineering Technology associate degree can transfer credit hours toward USC Upstate’s Engineering Technology Management B.S. program. The program allows students to complete up to 76 credit hours of the required 127 credit hours at PTC.
instruction in the latest technology so that the transition into the workplace will be a smooth one.

Dickson says, “While at PTC I earned my Mechanical Engineering Technology degree as well as an Engineering Graphics Technology degree with a CAD certificate. These two programs fully cover a day to day job in industry.”

For James Poston, a graduate who’s been working in the field for over 20 years, it was the degree of real-world instruction that made the difference.

“The parts of the program that dealt with manufacturing processes were extremely useful. How things are made, how to select materials, machining and assembly methods... All of these are important during the design process as well as when preparing detailed drawings,” he said.

All students can count on personal attention from the instructors.

“We try to take a personal interest in everyone’s goals and help them to get there, whether that means helping to get them up to speed with the math, or helping them prepare for job interviews,” said Warner.

Lowering the Barriers to Professional Success

Although careers in the world of engineering can be extremely rewarding, the cost of a degree at a four-year institution and the time commitment involved in pursuing a bachelor’s degree are major obstacles for some.

Piedmont Tech’s Engineering Technology program lowers most of the barriers to entry into the field.

A student attending PTC can expect to pay about half the tuition they’d owe at a four-year university, and the college offers day and evening classes to help students schedule their course work around existing responsibilities. To further offset the cost of attendance, PTC offers exemption credits toward an associate degree to high school students who’ve completed Project Lead the Way credits.

As with any career, higher levels of education open up additional options for graduates. Warner explains that the program now makes several seamless transfer options available to students who wish to pursue bachelor’s degrees in engineering after graduation. Transfer agreements are in place with USC Columbia, USC Upstate and South Carolina State University. The South Carolina State bachelor’s degree can be completed entirely on the PTC Greenwood campus.

“We’re always working to make additional opportunities available to our students,” said Warner. “If you start here, you can get into the work force and earn a good salary after just two years in college, or you can save a lot of money on your bachelor’s degree by taking advantage of one of our transfer options. Either way, Piedmont Tech is a great option for anyone interested in engineering.”

For more information about the Engineering Technology program, contact Sandy Warner at (864) 941-8466 or warner.s@ptc.edu. CF

Student Profile

Tabby Davis

PTC Provides a Solid Start

Tabby Davis is making her mark in the traditionally male-dominated world of engineering.

As a lead engineer for Product Applications at Eaton, Davis often finds herself the only woman in the room, providing technical training around the world. But her journey began in a non-traditional way.

“I took drafting classes in high school and really loved those,” Davis said. “I thought I wanted to be an architect, but I wasn’t financially able to go to college.”

Davis came to Piedmont Technical College in 1986 and earned an associate degree in Engineering Graphics Technology in 1988. Through the job placement services at PTC, she began working at Westinghouse in the drafting department. After 16 years, she realized that she needed more education in order to advance. So, she came back to Piedmont Tech and in 2003, received her bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering technology offered through the articulation agreement with South Carolina State University.

“Engineering is my field, but there was no way I could have earned my four-year degree and continued to work without the South Carolina State program,” Davis said.

With her training, Davis now travels across the United States and the world, doing sales and training for Eaton.

“The engineering technology training I received at Piedmont Tech has been essential in providing training to companies that purchase our products,” she said. “I am able to read drawings, do measurements and answer technical questions. This is especially helpful when products we sell like the busways have to have exact measurements in order to fit and operate correctly.”

Davis is also giving back to the college. She has been a featured speaker at the Girls Achieving in Technology and Engineering (GATE) summer program, a summer engineering technology camp exclusively for rising 10th, 11th and 12th grade female students.

“The GATE program is great because it is taking the time to focus on girls and show them that engineering is not just for the boys anymore,” she said.

Davis credits Piedmont Technical College for helping her achieve her dreams. She cites the location and affordability as the main draws.

“Piedmont Tech is a great place to get an affordable education. You can get a two-year degree and go straight to work with a local manufacturing company, engineering or architectural firm,” said Davis. “If you choose, you can take it to the next level and continue with your four-year degree — either right away or after a few years of working in your field. Many companies have a tuition reimbursement program which will pay all or part of the cost. This is how I completed my B.S. in Electrical Engineering, and it has really paid off for me.” CF
Given the choice between hiring two equally bright candidates—a shiny, happy person or a negative sad sack—who would you choose? It’s a no-brainer; individuals exuding self-confidence—faith and trust in their abilities—are those we want to be around and hire.

Lynne Sarikas, director of the MBA Career Center at Northeastern University’s College of Business Administration says, “When a candidate doesn’t show an ounce of confidence, I may feel terribly sorry, but I can’t hire them. We tell students, ‘You are selling yourself in interviews. You can’t do this effectively if you don’t believe in yourself.'”

Marilyn J. Sorensen, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and author of Breaking the Chain of Low Self-Esteem, says a lack of self-confidence can be a symptom of low self-esteem, a condition where a person mistakenly believes that they are inadequate, unlovable, unworthy or incompetent. This way of thinking only increases a job seeker’s fear of making a mistake or failing—and plunges their level of self-confidence.

Both note that while cascading job loss, financial strain and depression may erode the confidence of the most optimistic person, it doesn’t change the fact that people still want to hire capable, confident people.

What to do if you’re unemployed and suffering a confidence crisis? Help is closer than you think.

**Eliminate the negative, accentuate the positive**

Sarikas and Sorensen believe self-confidence is an inside game, one where you must take action to change your thoughts. The first step for the confidence-challenged, says Sorensen, is to diligently edit negative thoughts and only allow authentic self-statements based on fact, truth or history in order to eliminate inaccurate, self-defeating thoughts and behaviors.

In other words, when you think, “I’m an unemployable loser,” remember that you have been employed and the contribution you made: “I had a job and I was a reliable, hard-working employee. I’ll have a job again.”

Both recommend taking stock and writing down your positive traits (Are you honest, funny, cooperative, sincere?), your successes and examples of situations in which you overcame adversity. If you feel your job loss was because of your own negligence, acknowledge it and move on. Rehashing and self-recrimination are cold, comfortless companions.

Can’t recall what’s so great about you? Ask a friend, former co-worker or manager to jog your memory or supply appreciation or recommendation letters. Reference your list and collection of credentials and endorsements often to maintain your self-appreciation. It may sound silly, but no more so than living in your head thinking about how unemployable and unlikeable you are—and far more productive.

**Take a break from you**

Obsessive thinking about you and your situation won’t restore confidence. Sometimes you need to unplug the thinking-about-me machine and make a contribution to others to release yourself from fear and doubt. Being conscious of others’ needs and doing something to make a positive difference can help you rediscover your usefulness and well-being.

That’s why experts recommend volunteering or seeking no-cost ways to be of use while between jobs. Serve breakfast at a soup kitchen once or twice a week or rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Doing small acts of kindness have a way of getting negative thoughts out of our heads and putting self-affirming ones in their place.

**Prepare and practice**

How to boost your confidence pre-interview? Sarikas says preparation and practice are key. She suggests thoroughly researching the company and your interviewers. Consider questions you’re likely to be asked and your responses. Prepare your own questions and list examples of your work or experiences relevant to the position. Sarikas also suggests anticipating questions such as, “Tell me about a time you had conflict and how you resolved it?” or, as the iconic interviewer Barbara Walters once queried, “What kind of tree would you be?”

Ask friends to practice interviewing with you and give you feedback about your performance. Before interview time, ask a friend or mentor for a personal pep rally and then pump yourself up with accurate, positive self-talk. Sorensen adds the importance of taking time to review your list of factual and truthful statements and historical record of successes.

**Be here now**

Focus is the watchword for confident interviewing. Sarikas says it’s important when interviewing to believe that this is the best place for you to be at this point in time. Don’t think about how long you’ve been unemployed, how you need a job or your competition.

Take the heat off by being attentive to and interested in those interviewing you. Be yourself and...
What’s Your Confidence Quotient?
Genuine self-confidence takes courage

Take this quiz to see if you know how to hold on to your self-confidence after a job loss.

The best strategy to get your confidence back after a job loss is to:

1. Job loss, currently impacting millions across the nation due to the economic downturn, is consistently listed as a top stressor. Personal factors–excessive tardiness or absenteeism or being unfocused at work–can be other reasons behind losing a job.

   a. Acknowledge the loss and give equal time to assessing how you did or didn’t contribute to the situation.
   b. Tell everyone about your bad break and rotten former employer. They are certain to agree with you and you'll feel so much better.

   Sorensen suggests not taking your job loss personally if you didn’t do anything wrong. However, if you did play a part, you must be willing to take an honest look at yourself. She suggests writing about why you did play a part, you must be willing to take an honest look at yourself. She suggests writing about why you didn’t contribute to the situation.

2. Generic affirmations, such as “I’m a good person,” feel and sound absurd for a reason. They are non-specific and lack authenticity. Sorensen says true confidence comes from acknowledgment of one’s specific, genuine positive attributes. Unsure of yours? She recommends asking others for help when compiling a positive inventory. They are often able to remind us of our good qualities when stress inhibits our memory.

   a. Find a list of positive affirmations, look in the mirror and say them out loud to yourself each day.
   b. Write down the things you know that are undeniably good about you. Ask a friend or co-worker to jog your memory if you need help.

3. The best thing to do just before going into a job interview is to:

   a. Remember all your authentic positive traits and experiences.
   b. Think about all the mistakes you’ve made so you won’t make them again.

   Sorensen suggests not taking your job loss personally if you didn’t do anything wrong. However, if you did play a part, you must be willing to take an honest look at yourself. She suggests writing about why you didn’t contribute to the situation.

Answer Key
Give yourself one point for each correct answer.

1–a. Job loss, currently impacting millions across the nation due to the economic downturn, is consistently listed as a top stressor. Personal factors–excessive tardiness or absenteeism or being unfocused at work–can be other reasons behind losing a job.

   a. Acknowledge the loss and give equal time to assessing how you did or didn’t contribute to the situation.
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   a. Find a list of positive affirmations, look in the mirror and say them out loud to yourself each day.
   b. Write down the things you know that are undeniably good about you. Ask a friend or co-worker to jog your memory if you need help.

3–a. No one can take away your undeniable positive attributes and experiences. Dwelling on past mistakes or situations that you feel didn’t work to your advantage are bona fide confidence killers.

   a. Remember all your authentic positive traits and experiences.
   b. Think about all the mistakes you’ve made so you won’t make them again.

4–b. People are undeniably more interested in learning about you when you take an interest in them. As Dale Carnegie, author of How to Win Friends and Influence People said, “You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.”

   You show your respect and interest when you take the time to learn about your hoped-for employer and interviewer. The bonus is you go to your interview prepared for an intelligent discussion, a key confidence booster, according to Sarikas.

5–a. While it’s important to continue researching and applying for jobs, obsessive job hunting and non-stop networking can exhaust you and wreak havoc on your confidence. Certainly spend time each day on your search, but take a break and help others if you find yourself feeling inadequate and frustrated.

   It can be the best thing you can do to help yourself. Why? Because being of service gives your life meaning. It’s a reminder that while you may currently feel impotent career-wise, you still have purpose and power in your ability to be useful to others–a sure-fire nutrient that will make your confidence bloom and grow.

Scoring
4–5 points: Well done! You’ve got what it takes to shine.
2–3 points: Not bad, but understanding and employing some confidence raising tactics may help you enhance yours.
0–1 point: Time for a confidence makeover. Consider asking a friend or mentor to help you in your quest for improved self-confidence. CF
Designing a Bright Future

PTC’s Commercial Art program teaches the fundamentals of creative careers

Art and design color our perception of the world—from the products we buy to the television shows we enjoy. The commercial arts play an important part in our day-to-day lives and in the business world. “Although most people don’t consciously notice it, good design can have a huge impact on a business’s success,” says Kendall Adams, program coordinator and instructor for Piedmont Tech’s Commercial Art program.

Adams explains that, for many companies, distinctive design can make the difference between standout performance and also-ran status.

From billboards, to television ads, to the way products are packaged and manufactured: almost every element of modern consumer culture has been influenced by graphic designers and commercial art professionals at one point or another on the journey from concept to finished product. Design drives much of the way consumers perceive and interact with products.

“A Starbucks coffee cup is a great example,” says Adams. “Twenty years ago, for most people, a cup of coffee was just a commodity. One was just as good as another. But Starbucks has spent a lot of time on their branding to make sure you feel like what you’re drinking is worth an extra dollar or two—and because the experience is so well thought out, the company has been incredibly successful.”

Adams says that the development of that one cup involved a whole team of people. A graphic designer created the logo and selected the typefaces. Illustrators and photographers developed the graphics. A production artist consulted with a print technician to select the materials. And an art director oversaw the whole process to make sure the Starbucks brand was properly represented.

“And that’s just one example. Commercial art is all around us, and companies today need people who are trained to do these specialized jobs,” said Adams.

A Creative Career

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. As a commercial artist, you’ll plan, analyze, and create visual solutions to communications problems.

Commercial Art graduates are qualified to work in advertising agencies, printing companies, corporate marketing departments, and many other areas. Because there’s a bustling market for good freelance work, opportunities for self-employment are very good.

For Amy Wood, a commercial art graduate working as a professional photographer, the opportunities for self-employment were a major reason she was attracted to the program. She says, “I was always 100% determined to own my own business one day. I knew I always wanted to be creative in my career, and the Commercial Art program allowed me to learn in a hands-on approach, while giving me real-life knowledge from experienced instructors.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the commercial arts are a high growth field. The demand for graphic designers, for example, is expected to increase by 13%, over the next decade—faster than average. For multimedia artists and animators, the outlook is even better—48%.

“This field is very competitive, but it’s really wide-open for talented people with the drive to succeed,” says Adams.

Real-World Experience

Commercial Art students get a solid foundation in design concepts, in-depth instruction in industry standard software, like the Adobe Creative Suite, Maya, and actual experience with real-world challenges related to their field of study.

For Kristin Culbreath, a second-year advertising design student who has just taken a job as a junior graphic arts specialist at Capsugel, this practical experience is one of the best parts of the program.

“I like that we get to work with actual design challenges—things like clothing design, billboards and brochures. I have some friends at other colleges and they’re not getting the same kind of exposure to Adobe Photoshop and other design software that I’ve been getting here. It’s been very useful for me to get actual, hands-on design experience,” she said.

Throughout all of the areas of study, the importance of developing a solid portfolio is stressed.

“In most hiring situations in these fields, job applicants are judged primarily on the strength of their previous work, so we spend a lot of time on helping our students develop a portfolio that’s representative of who they are as professionals,” says Adams.

Student-Centered Instruction

With 120 years of combined professional art and design experience, the Commercial Art faculty has a wealth of experience to share with students, and each instructor is focused on student success. In each class, students know at the outset how success will be measured and evaluated.

“We take student satisfaction personally, and we all make ourselves available to ensure that your academic goals are being met,” says Adams.

Classes at PTC are scheduled with students’ needs in mind, and day, evening and some online classes are available.

“I would tell anyone to definitely give Piedmont Tech a shot. It ended up being the perfect place for me because you get personal attention in class and the teachers here really...
Mike Beckom

PTC is the Right Choice for Returning Students

After walking away from college 25 years ago, award-winning editorial cartoonist and August 2010 PTC graduate Mike Beckom had no intention of ever coming back.

“I didn’t come to Piedmont Tech right out of high school,” he said. “In fact, I attended a four-year university for one whole year before I decided that I didn’t like it and I quit. I had no intention of ever darkening the doors of a college again.”

He says that he didn’t know at the time how much he’d need a degree. Beckom said, “I worked a whole laundry list of dead end jobs. I’ve been passed over and locked out of getting better jobs because I didn’t have a degree.”

His family and friends had encouraged him to go back to school for most of his life, but after his last job, he was ready to listen.

Beckom had been cartooning since childhood, and over the course of the last several years, he’s been establishing a progressively larger audience. In fact, today, his work has been published in more than 35 newspapers throughout South Carolina. He took some time to reflect, and decided that what he really wanted was a job where he’d be able to use his creative abilities.

After discovering that Piedmont Tech offered Commercial Art, he took a leap of faith.

“It turned out to be the right move. ‘Clint Scott, one of my instructors, said ‘I’m going to give you the skills, tools, and the training to make you employable and keep you that way.’ That was exactly why I’d come back to school. I’d wanted to finally have a job that I loved,” said Beckom.

Now, equipped with a solid foundation in graphic design, illustration and other areas of commercial art, Beckom is working on a dual career. He’s continuing to build on his prior success in cartooning, and after landing some freelance graphic design jobs right out of school, he’s pursuing a career in design.

“I made exactly the right decision in coming to Piedmont Tech,” he says. “I really feel like the possibilities are limitless.”

1.800.868.5528 | Piedmont Technical College | www.ptc.edu

A Variety of Career Paths

Advertising Design
This certificate covers the fundamentals of copy and layout for print media advertising. In addition to core classes, course work centers around basic copywriting, advertising design, marketing and typography.

Desktop Publishing
This certificate provides training on state-of-the-art hardware using the most updated computer software programs required in the graphic design industry and includes instruction in page layout basics, scanning operations, image-editing techniques along with basic core courses.

Digital Rendering and Gaming Development
This certificate will offer training and preparation for career opportunities in entry-level positions in the fast growing digital rendering, game development and multimedia fields. Industry standard software and equipment will be used to provide exposure to digital gaming technology, game design process, animation, computer graphics and multimedia design subjects.

Photography
This certificate provides both aesthetic and commercial applications of photography. Beginning in the first semester, students will learn how to take pictures on assignment. Beginning, intermediate and advanced photography classes are offered in addition to core courses.

Illustration
This certificate provides hands-on training in the latest techniques of drawing and rendering. In addition to core courses, classes will center around basic drawing (beginning, intermediate and advanced), graphic illustration, modern art communications, color and composition.

Professional Pottery
Located in historic Edgefield County, the Professional Clay program is designed to offer a comprehensive education in the craft of pottery. Ample studio time and in-depth, one-on-one instruction will provide you with the opportunity to sharpen your skills and to develop your voice and identity as a clay artisan.

To learn more about the Commercial Art program, contact Kendall Adams at adams.k@ptc.edu or by phone at (864) 941-8474.
For many people, deciding on a career can feel like taking a journey without either a map or a destination. Eventually, with some advice and direction, a little exploration and maybe a dead end or two, you begin to get a sense of where you’d like to go and how to get there. Whether you’re just starting out or picking up a new career in midlife, 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 (864) 941-8369 for answers to your questions.

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**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.

**General Studies Certificate**

This certificate program provides an integrated option for students seeking an introduction to various academic disciplines.

**Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers**

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 15 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

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**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, horticulture, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

**Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate**

**Advanced Diversified Agriculture Certificate**

**Horticulture Technology**

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

**A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology**

**Horticulture Landscape Management Certificate**

**Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson**

**Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson**

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**BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

If you’re a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have 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**

**Microcomputer Software Specialist Certificate**

**Office Technician Certificate**

**Business**

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

**A.A.S., Major in Business**

**Accounting Certificate**

**Entrepreneurship Certificate**

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**South Carolina Median Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>$32,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulturist</td>
<td>$35,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping Supervisor</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**South Carolina Median Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Office Technology</td>
<td>$28,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>$40,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Administrator</td>
<td>$59,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Director</td>
<td>$52,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Advanced Web Development Certificate
PC Technician Certificate

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.
Advertising Design Certificate
Desktop Publishing Certificate
Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate
Illustration Certificate
Photography Certificate

Funeral Service
This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.
A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service
Funeral Service Education Certificate

Professional Pottery
Located in historic Edgefield County, the Professional Clay program is designed to offer a comprehensive education in the craft of pottery, and in the discipline of making a living doing what you love.
Advanced Professional Clay Certificate
Professional Clay Certificate

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

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

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

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

Certificate Programs
Computer Aided Drafting Design
Electrical Engineering Transfer
Mechanical Engineering Transfer

South Carolina Median Salaries
- Electrical and Electronics Drafters: $49,000
- Electronic Engineering Technician: $54,800
- Mechanical Engineering Technician: $46,200

Industrial Electronics 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 Industrial Electronics Technology

Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology
Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.
A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology
Heating Fundamentals Certificate
Refrigeration Applications Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology
Instruction covers DC and AC voltages; basic hydraulics; machine shop practice; motor control; and the generation, distribution and utilization of electrical power.
A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology
Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

Machine Tool Technology
Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.
A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology
D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool
Computerized Numerical Control Certificate
Electrical Discharge Machining 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
Mechatronics Technology II Certificate

Welding
Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.
D.A.S., Major in Welding
Journeyman Welding Certificate
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

**General Health Science**
The General Health Science certificate offers students awaiting program entry a sequence of courses that meet the general education requirements of health science programs.

**Massage Therapy**
Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.

**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.

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-RN licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses.

A.A.S., Major in Nursing

D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing

Advanced Placement Nursing Program

Associate in Arts with Nursing Focus/ADN to BSN

**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.

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

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

A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology

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

A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care

**Surgical Technology**
Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RN’s and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.

D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

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**South Carolina Median Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Technologist</td>
<td>$46,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical Nurse</td>
<td>$37,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massage Therapist</td>
<td>$34,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Technician</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic Technologist</td>
<td>$47,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Therapist</td>
<td>$49,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse (RN)</td>
<td>$57,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian Technician</td>
<td>$26,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**General Technology**
The major in General Technology requires that a student have completed or be in the last term of a diploma or certificate program of 28 hours. Students in the following programs, with general education courses and a secondary specialty, may earn an Associate in Applied Science with a major in General Technology: Advanced Agriculture, Advertising Design, Desktop Publishing, Horticulture Landscape Management, Illustration, Machine Tool, Mechatronics Technology I, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, Photography, Surgical Technology and Welding.

**Vocational-Technical Education**
The Vocational-Technical Education program is designed to meet the professional development and in-service training needs of practicing vocational-technical instructors. Many instructors in South Carolina technical colleges and career centers have been employed because they possess valuable technical skills and credentials. Prior to employment, however, many of these skilled personnel have not participated in formal post-secondary general and professional education.

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**South Carolina Median Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corrections Officer</td>
<td>$23,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool or Daycare Director</td>
<td>$40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teacher</td>
<td>$21,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Salary data is based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.*

**Piedmont Technical College** is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4997). Telephone number (404) 679-4901 to award the associate degree and holds membership in the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges and in the American Technical Education Association. For a full list of accreditations, visit http://www.ptc.edu/about-ptc/accreditation
Upcoming Continuing Education Classes

Personal Enrichment Classes (Just for Fun!)
- Basic Automobile & Motorcycle Maintenance (LC, NC)
- Beginning Bridge (NC)
- Belly Dancing (Basic, Intermediate) (GC)
- Decorating Made Easy (LC, NC)
- Defensive Driving (GC, LC, NC)
- Dog Obedience (GC)
- Driver’s Education (GC)
- Go Green at Home (GC)
- Introduction to Crocheting (NC)
- Knitting for Beginners (GC)
- Motorcycle- Advanced Rider Sport Bike Techniques (GC)
- Motorcycle Safety (Beginner, Intermediate, Experienced) (GC)
- Sewing 101 (LC)
- Small Engine Repair (GC)
- Zumba (GC)

Health Care Classes (For a Career)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) (GC)
- Health Unit Coordinator (GC, LC)
- Medical Coding for Medical Workers (GC)
- Nursing Assistant (GC, NC, LC, SC)

Professional Development Classes (For a Career/CEUs)
- Aromatherapy Skills Training for Massage Therapists (GC)
- Commercial Floral Design II (GC)
- Constable In-Service (GC)
- Master Planning of Resources (GC)
- ServSafe Food Safety Training (NC)
- SHRM Learning Systems Course (GC)
- Supervisory Development (GC, LC, NC)
- Swimming Pool & Spa Operator Certification Course (GC)
- Tai Chi Massage for Therapists (GC)
- Wedding Planning Certification (GC)
- ADQP/Core Tools (GC)
- ISO 9001:2008 Internal Auditor (GC)

Computer Classes
- Adobe Photoshop Image Editing, Basic (GC)
- Computer Skills 101 Series (GC, LC)
- Digital Photography, Intro (LC, NC)
- Digital Printing Techniques (GC)
- Introduction to Microsoft Excel (GC, LC)
- Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint (GC, LC)
- Introduction to Microsoft Word (GC, LC)
- Managing Files and Folders (GC, LC)
- Microsoft Excel Refresher (NC)
- Microsoft Publisher 2007, Basic (GC)
- Photographic Composition (GC)

Licensing
- Commercial Truck Driver’s License Training (GC)
- Real Estate (GC)

Many Online Classes Available at www.ptc.edu/coned/ce-online-courses
For Class Dates/Times, to learn more about these courses, or to register for a course, visit us online at www.ptc.edu/coned or call (864) 941-8400.

Group Travel Opportunities
- From the Outback to the Glaciers (April 7-26, 2011)
- Russian River Cruise (June 18-28, 2011)
- Historic Trains of California (September 4-13, 2011)
- Discover Tuscany (November 1-10, 2011)

For more information, contact Jeanne Hughston at (864) 941-8781.

Have an idea for a Continuing Education course? Call (864) 941-8400.
With over 80 academic programs that lead to well-paying careers, transfer agreements with colleges and universities throughout the state, and a wide selection of online courses, Piedmont Tech has a choice that’s right for you.

Stop by one of our seven locations to get started today.

Abbeville County Center
Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, South Carolina
(864) 446-8324

Edgefield County Center
506 Main Street
Edgefield, South Carolina
(803) 637-5388

Saluda County Center
701 Batesburg Hwy.
Saluda, South Carolina
(864) 445-3144

Laurens County Higher Education Center
663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, South Carolina
(864) 938-1505

Greenwood Campus
620 N. Emerald Rd.
Greenwood, South Carolina
(800) 868-5528
(864) 941-8324

McCormick County Center
407 East Augusta Street
McCormick, South Carolina
(864) 465-3191

Newberry County Center
540 Wilson Road
Newberry, South Carolina
(803) 276-9000

REGISTER TODAY
Spring classes start January 18.